Daily Report
Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-88-074 CONTENTS *18 April 1988*

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

U.S. Experts Leave for Verification Experiment 1
Grinevskiy on Sochi Verification Meeting 1
Arms Reduction 'Ball Now in Court of NATO' *[Chernyshev]* 1
NATO Position on Conventional Arms Assessed *[Chernyshev]* 2
U.S. Shows No 'Constructive Approach' at Talks 3
'Signs of Progress' at Test Ban Talks Seen *[Solton]* 3
Pact Experts on European Disarmament Meet 3

COMMUNIST RELATIONS

Journal Conference Makes Exchange Possible *[Prague]* 4
  Dobrynin Addresses Conference 4
  Meeting Concludes 4
  Dobrynin Interview *[Prague]* 4
  Dobrynin Visits Lenin Museum 5
  Delegation Leaves Prague 5
  Medvedev Welcomes Dobrynin Home 6
'Friendship' Exercises End in GDR 15 Apr 6
Finance Key To Developing Bloc Markets *[SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 25 Mar]* 6
CEMA Groups Discuss Air Traffic Control 8

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

Deputy Foreign Minister Holds Briefing 15 Apr 9
  Geneva Accords To Be Honored 9
  U.S. Human Rights Viewed 9
  Wegener Cited on CW Accord 9
  Greeks Cited on U.S. Report 9
  Danes on Nuclear-Armed Ships 10
  Nuclear Test Monitoring Held 10
  ITER Council Created 10
Sergeyev on Facilities for Foreign Journalists 10
CSCE Meeting Resumes in Vienna 15 Apr 11
Socialist International Statement Opposes SDI 11
Marxist Journal Reviewed at Communist Meeting 11
79th Interparliamentary Union Congress Ends 12
Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable' *[Charikov, Agayants, Tsoppi]* 12
'International Situation—Questions and Answers' *[Patsyuk, Shkirando, Bogachev]* 16

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United States & Canada

Bogachev on Bush's 'Bellicose Neo-Globalism' 20
Moscow TV Roundtable Discusses U.S. Relations *[Sorokin, Arbatov, Falin]* 20
Comparison of PRAVDA on Reagan Speech 25
U.S. Paper Cited on Action Against Iran 25
U.S. Paper Speculates on Plan To Attack Libya 25
Further Reportage on ASTEC Activities 25
  Dobrynin, Hammer Hold Talks 25
  Gusev Receives Monsanto's Mahoney 26
  Andreas Grants Interview 26

Arbatov Comments on Talks 27
Agreement on Nuclear Reduction Possible *[Kozyakov]* 27
Korionov Assails USIA Report on Glasnost Use *[PRAVDA 12 Apr]* 28
Comparison of Second Edition *[PRAVDA 12 April]* 29
Correction to U.S. Senate Group's Kiev Visit 29

China

Defense Council Congratulates Deng Xiaoping 29
National Peoples' Congress Session Ends *[PRAVDA 14 Apr]* 29
NPC Session Reviewed 30
Cultural Reform Plans 30
Mulatov on USSR, PRC Ties With Southeast Asia 31

Northeast Asia

Japan's Uno Makes 'Provocative Trip' to Kuriles 31
Lockheed To Supply Planes for Japanese Buildup *[PRAVDA 14 Apr]* 31
Japanese CP Delegation Arrives in Moscow 32
Embassy Shows Films on Kim Il-song Birthday *[Pyongyang]* 32

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Rogachev Holds Consultations in Indonesia 32
Meets Officials 32
Speaks to Press *[Jakarta ANTARA]* 32
Views ESCAP Role *[Jakarta]* 33
Afghanistan, Cambodia Remarks *[AFP]* 33
Further on Comments *[Bangkok THE NATION 15 Apr]* 34
Suharto, USSR Presidium Exchange Telegrams 34
Australia's Hayden Denies Soviet Pacific Buildup *[PRAVDA 14 Apr]* 34
Vietnam Objects to PRC Decision on Islands 35
Cambodia Planning New Hun Sen-Sihanouk Meeting 35
Briefs 35
Medal for Lao Envoy 35

Near East & South Asia

Developments Around Gulf War Zone Reported 35
Events of 12 Apr *[PRAVDA 13 Apr]* 35
Western Nations Send Arms 36
U.S. Detonates Mine 15 Apr 36
U.S. Ships Shell Iranian Platforms 36
U.S. Attacks Iranian Troops 36
Iranians Attack UK Tanker 37
Iranian Boats Attack U.S. Ship 37
Iranian Ship Attacks UAE Platform 37
U.S. Planes Fire at Iranian Frigate 37
Carlucci Reports Actions 37
Further Reportage on Afghan-Pakistan Accords 37
Shevardnadze 'Statement' *[PRAVDA 16 Apr]* 37
Shevardnadze, Wakil Meet in Moscow *[PRAVDA 17 Apr]* 38
Wakil Returns to Kabul 38
Comments by Wakil 39
Vorontsov Receives Pakistan Envoy 39
Commentary on Afghan Future *[Kondrashov in IZVESTIYA 17 Apr]* 39
U.S. Aid for Rebels Criticized *[Kornilov]* 41
Ziaul Haq Stand Condemned *[Vavilov]* 42
Official on Pakistani View 42
Zholkver Interviewed 43
Najibullah Appeals to Opposition 43
Najibullah 16 Apr Speech 44

  - Afghan National Front Appeal ... 44
  - Soviet Soldiers Interviewed ... 45
- Details of Afghan Elections Reported ... 45
- Afghan Politburo Holds Routine Session ... 46
- PLO's Al-Wazir Reported Assassinated in Tunis ... 46
  - 'Murderous Day' in Territories ... 46
  - Commentary on Assassination *[Rassadin]* ... 46
  - Mossad Ties to West Noted *[Kulik]* ... 47
  - U.S. Weekly Cited on 'Commandos' ... 48
  - Israel Reportedly Behind Killing ... 48
- U.S. Vetoes UN Resolution Condemning Israel ... 48
- PLO's 'Arafat Characterizes Talks in Moscow ... 48
  - Speaks to Soviet Journalists ... 48
  - Interviewed by British Paper *[London MORNING STAR 13 Apr]* ... 48
- Soviet Groups Send Aid to Palestinians ... 51
- Developments in Kuwaiti Airliner Hijacking ... 51
  - Comments by Kuwaiti Envoy ... 51
  - Spokesman Backs Kuwaiti Stand *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 15 Apr]* ... 51
- U.S. Criticized at Tripoli Terrorism Symposium ... 52
- Party, Government Send Cable to Syrian Leaders ... 52
- Zaytsev Delegation Ends Visit to Tunisia ... 53

Sub-Saharan Africa

- SWAPO Leader Nujoma Arrives in Moscow ... 53
- Statement on Mozambican Delegation's Visit *[IZVESTIYA 15 Apr]* ... 53

East Europe

- Ryzhkov, Delegation Leave for Hungary ... 54
  - Arrive in Hungary ... 54
- PZPR Spokesman on Quality of Bilateral Ties *[PRAVDA 14 Apr]* ... 55
- Comparison of Shevardnadze-CPCZ Leaders' Talks *[PRAVDA 13 Apr]* ... 55
- Comparison of Dobrynin-Jakes Prague Meeting *[PRAVDA 13 Apr]* ... 55
- Pugwash Symposium Meeting Ends in Prague ... 56

West Europe

- Baltic Demarcation Accord Signed With Sweden *[Stockholm]* ... 56
- Danish Nuclear Arms Vote 'Black Day' for NATO *[Knyazkov]* ... 56
- Soviet Naval Exercise off Norway Reported *[Oslo AFTENPOSTEN 5 Apr]* ... 56
- Levadov, Zheglov View West German Revanchism *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 Apr]* ... 57
- DER SPIEGEL Cited on FRG Arms Plans *[IZVESTIYA 8 Apr]* ... 57
- CPSU's Biryukova Receives Italian Communist ... 58
- Italian Leaders Condemn Senator's Assassination ... 58
- CPSU Delegation Concludes Visit to Cyprus ... 58

Latin America & Caribbean

- Panama on 'High Alert' Against U.S. Invasion ... 59
- NEWSWEEK Says CIA Derailing Nicaragua Talks ... 59
- Nicaragua Defense Minister on 'Peace' Proposals ... 59
- 'Insurgents' Kill El Salvadoran Soldiers ... 59
- Parliamentary Delegation Departs for Caribbean ... 60

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political & Social

- Gorbachev Replies to Christian Peace Conference ... 61
- Text of Ligachev Speech on Cultural Issues *[SOVETSKAYA KULTURA 7 Apr]* ... 61

Politburo Members Address CPSU Study Courses *[PRAVDA 1 Apr]* ... 66
Slyunkov, Dolgikh Address Engineering Conference ... 67
Dolgikh Attends Inventors' Society Congress ... 68
    Talyzin, Biryukova Present ... 68
    Congress Concludes ... 68
Central Committee Slogans for May Day 1988 *[PRAVDA 17 Apr]* ... 68
Party Session, Role of Press, Glasnost Viewed *[Budapest MAGYARORSZAG No 15]* ... 69
Chernobyl Radiation Zone Militia Patrols Formed ... 71
Chernobyl Emissions Now 10 Percent of Norm ... 72
Ukraine Government Discusses Ecology Problems *[Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY 5 Apr]* ... 72
Tajik Premier on Headway in Employment Problems ... 73
Tajik Presidium Receives Tatar Representatives *[Dushanbe]* ... 74
Article Examines Problem of Nationalities *[MOSCOW NEWS No 14]* ... 74
Members Leave 'Helsinki-86' Latvian Group ... 76
Fatal Roof Collapse at Nizhniy Tagil Plant *[SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 12 Apr]* ... 77
Yevtushenko Bemoans Neglect of Small Towns *[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 6 Apr]* ... 77
Paper Defends Stand in Historical Polemics *[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 13 Apr]* ... 79
Editor Describes New Foreign Affairs Journal ... 79
Contents of New Issue of KOMMUNIST Published *[PRAVDA 14 Apr]* ... 80
Briefs ... 80
    TV Broadcast to Nagorno-Karabakh ... 80

Economic

CPSU Passes Construction Resources Resolution *[PRAVDA 30 Mar]* ... 80
Social Stratification Called 'Normal Phenomenon' ... 82
Economist Views Price Formation Options *[TRUD 14 Apr]* ... 82

Agricultural

Media Report 10-13 Apr Agricultural Developments ... 84

Scientific

Activities of 'Mir' Cosmonauts Outlined ... 85
    Tasks for 16 Apr ... 85
    To Rest 17 Apr ... 85
Cosmonaut Delegation Arrives in Syrian Capital ... 85
Yakovlev Attends Science Day Soiree in Moscow ... 85
Test Flights of Aircraft With New Fuel Noted ... 85
Briefs ... 86
    Seagoing Hydrofoil Tested ... 86
    New Antarctic Station Opened ... 86

Military

Yazov Order for Air Defense Forces' Day *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Apr]* ... 86
Aktiv, Military District on Predraft Training *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 Apr]* ... 87

U.S. Experts Leave for Verification Experiment

LD160642 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian0617 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Washington [dateline as received]—A U.S. State Department spokesman has announced that a group of American experts is leaving for the USSR in order to prepare a joint experiment on the verification and monitoring [po proverke i kontrolyu] of nuclear explosions.

Grinevskiy on Sochi Verification Meeting

LD151956 Moscow TASS in English 1918 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Sochi April 15 TASS—"The Soviet Union is for the most effective verification based on the use of national technical means and international procedures, including obligatory on-site inspections. When we hear talks about the need for double control we say that we are for triple control", a TASS correspondent was told by Ambassador Oleg Grinevskiy who headed a group of Soviet experts at a meeting on problems of verification in the framework of the United Nations world campaign for disarmament. The meeting ended here today. Representatives of 20 countries took part in a debate which lasted for five days.

"No difficulties of political nature related to verification exist in the Soviet Union", Grinevskiy went on. "We are prepared to go as far as needed in the area of verification in order to have a firm confidence that the agreements are strictly observed by all."

In the opinion of Ambassador Tessa Solesby, Great Britain's representative at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the effectiveness of disarmament is proportionate to verification, and the principle of confidence is the main composite part of this complex. To our satisfaction the roads of making verification more effective were charted at the meeting, she emphasized.

Ease and confidence, this is how the Netherlands' permanent representative to the United Nations office at Geneva, Ambassador Robert van Schaik summed up the work of the meeting. He said that the participants in the meeting had had an opportunity to hear various viewpoints on the problems of disarmament and verification and that they were striving to find points of contact, to understand each other better. And this has been achieved. The meeting has been an unqualified success, he noted.

Arms Reduction 'Ball Now in Court of NATO'

LD161327 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev comments:

U.S. officials have been stating recently the need to solve, as a matter of priority, the issue of reducing conventional armaments. Regrettably, all this, however, remains at the declarative level. A detailed platform for a realistic accomplishment of the said task has not been elaborated either in Washington or the more so in the North Atlantic bloc on the whole.

In contrast to the West, the Soviet Union and other parties to the Warsaw Treaty gave most serious study to this problem, formulated several fundamental principles which essentially form the philosophy of disarmament in the non-nuclear field.

First. The issue of "non-offensive defence". The creation of such a set of conditions under which the defence capacity of one side would overwhelm the offensive might of the other side and vice versa are central to ensuring stability at the level of conventional forces.

Soviet specialists formulate the main principle of creating actually a new system of military-strategic equilibrium at the level of general purpose forces and conventional armaments as follows: The defense capacity of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation should exceed significantly the offensive might of NATO and the defence capacity of NATO should exceed significantly the offensive might of the Warsaw Treaty.

Second. The need to bring the military confrontation of the two military-political alliances down to a lower level is no less important from the point of view of enhancing strategic stability. The existing balance in conventional arms and armed forces between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO does not suit in whatever measure the USSR and its allies, since this is a balance on a very high level with an extremely high concentration of armaments from both sides. This is the reason why they propose to NATO with such persistence bringing the balance down to a lower level through drastic reductions in the armed forces and armaments throughout Europe—from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Third. Both opposing sides should be guided in the troops and arms reduction process by the principle of reasonable sufficiency of the retained forces and systems for defence. The vicious inner logic of the arms race can be eroded by adopting the principle of reasonable sufficiency. As applied to conventional arms and armed forces, the level of sufficiency should be determined by ensuring such a minimum military potential so that the aggressor could not count on acting with impunity in the event of such a conflict, rather than the ability to gain a victory in a large-scale conflict. In so doing, account should be taken of the quantitative indicators as well as of the quality of armaments, mobility, the standard of the troops' professional battle training, the potentialities of the material and equipment supply, combat readiness of large and small units, etc.

Fourth. An increase in the predictability of the conduct of states and military-political alliances on the international scene could largely contribute to the assertion of the principle of reasonable sufficiency. Predictability is an indispensable condition of a truly reliable process of the stabilization of the strategic situation and it is totally incompatible with the "deterrence" concept.

But Western strategists, contrary to any logic, consider unpredictability and even irrationalism in the conduct of states and alliances as a "merit" since this is allegedly meant to intensify the intimidating impact on the other side.

To counter any intimidation and any uncertainty, the concept of reasonable sufficiency is meant to build mutual trust, enhance predictability, ensure the solution of the problem of informing about the military activity of states, give a correct understanding of each other's concerns, objectives and intentions in the military field.

There is no doubt that the world developments, growing interdependence of states, introducing the advances of science and technology in the military field and developing weapons of an unprecedented destructive force call for new thinking, new approach to the questions of war and peace, to dealing with the disamament problems. Our country, all states of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation are ready to put into practice this imperative of the age of ours. The ball is now in the court of the United States and its NATO allies.

NATO Position on Conventional Arms Assessed

LD151855 Moscow TASS in English 1749 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev.

Speaking at a reception in Moscow on the occasion of the annual meeting of the members of the USA-USSR Trade and Economic Council, Mikhail Gorbachev underlined that reduction of conventional armaments and troops was one of the most important questions of world politics.

The Soviet Union's stand on that question is known to the NATO countries. Since the West still makes a broad use of propaganda stereotypes on correlation of forces between the Warsaw Treaty and the North Atlantic alliance in conventional armaments, it would be expedient to exchange the data on troops and armaments of both alliances in order to promote the beginning of the negotiations on reduction of troops and conventional armaments in Europe. Proposals to that score were made by Army General Dmitriy Yazov at a meeting of the defense minister of the USSR and the U.S. defence secretary in Bern and concretized by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during his visit to Washington in March this year. The Soviet standpoint is that in mid-April experts could get down to coordinating the list of the data which are to be published, and information on the agreed-upon parameters could be openly exchanged in mid-May. That information would embrace the data on the NATO and Warsaw Treaty member countries, on the whole, on each of these countries and also on areas—the north of Europe, central Europe, the south of Europe.

It would seem that considering the widespread declaration in the West on the Warsaw Treaty's "overwhelming superiority" over NATO in the sphere of conventional troops, the proposal on the exchange of data ought to be met with enthusiasm in the capitals of the countries of the North Atlantic bloc. But that did not happen nevertheless: There is still no reply. The matter, therefore, is not that Washington and its West European partners feel concern over the problem of the correlation of conventional troops in Europe. The cause of anxiety, I think, is quite different: The publication of realistic data will obviously undermine the propaganda stereotype, deliberately created and supported by certain Western circles.

Take another aspect of the problem of conventional armaments: the proposals of the Warsaw Treaty states for elimination of disproportions and asymmetry through reduction of troops and armaments of the side which is in advance. One will search in vain an answer to our proposals in the statement of the Brussels NATO Council session at the level of heads of state and government on conventional armaments (March 2, 1988). Everything there again boils down to the same stereotypes and it is said that "a highly asymmetrical reduction", above all in tanks and artillery, is required from the East. A similar approach is witnessed in the so-called "new concept for reduction of conventional armaments in Europe", presented by the FRG Government to the NATO allies. If such an approach is used, one can hardly count on attaining any positive results for our continent.

Only one way can be considered as realistic: a comprehensive analysis of the correlation of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO troops, which are diverse and dissimilar in their structure. The NATO countries have a superiority in some spheres, while the Warsaw Treaty—in other spheres. Disbalances of each side and in all types should be therefore considered. The question is why does not NATO raise the question of eliminating imbalances in the air force and the navy in which the West has substantial advantages? Why is emphasis made only on tendentiously selected elements of the land forces? The point is that this NATO's line is aimed at weakening the Warsaw Treaty and at preserving the NATO's strongest components. Can one consider such calculations as realistic? I think that any sober-minded person will give a negative reply to this question.

The USSR and its allies are ready to consider and resolve the question of elimination of the existing imbalances, but in such a way that the interests of security of both sides, NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, should be observed. It is high time, at long last, for our partners in the world-be negotiations on reduction of conventional armaments and troops in Europe to come over from propaganda stereotypes to concrete deeds.

U.S. Shows No 'Constructive Approach' at Talks

LD151921 Moscow TASS in English 1852 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva April 15 TASS—Work continued over the past week within the framework of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms on drawing up a treaty on the 50 percent reduction of the strategic offensive weapons of the Soviet Union and the United States and the accompanying draft protocol on inspections, protocol on re-equipment or elimination and memorandum of understanding on initial data.

Building up on its constructive approach, the Soviet party to the talks submitted on April 15 an updated version of Article 7 of the treaty, setting out the order of counting strategic offensive weapons within the quantitative restrictions to be fixed.

In the group on space arms, the Soviet delegation is consistently pursuing a course towards drafting an agreement on observance of the ABM Treaty in the shape it was signed in 1972 and non-withdrawal from it within an agreed upon period in strict compliance with the decisions to this effect recorded in the December 10, 1987 joint statement by Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan.

The Soviet delegation proposed a draft protocol to the agreement in the making, which covers issues of verifying the sides' compliance with the commitments to be assumed.

The American side has so far shown no signs of constructive approach to issues relating to the ABM Treaty.

'Signs of Progress' at Test Ban Talks Seen

LD151032 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] The Soviet delegation has tabled new proposals at the Soviet-American talks on limiting and halting nuclear tests. Our observer, Yuriy Solton, examines these proposals and this is what he writes:

The talks initiated by the Soviet Union began at the end of last year. The two sides decided to advance stage by stage towards limiting nuclear tests and finally banning them once and for all. The ratification of two treaties is to become the first stage. The first treaty, signed in 1974, provides for a 150-kiloton limit to underground nuclear explosions. The second accord, concluded in 1976, closes the loopholes for using peaceful nuclear explosions for military purposes. The United States has been refusing to ratify these important agreements. They allege that compliance with them is difficult to verify.

At present there seems to be signs of progress. Following their visits to the nuclear sites in Kazakhstan and Nevada, American and Soviet specialists are preparing a joint experiment to prove that compliance with the accords can be reliably verified. The new proposals tabled by the Soviet delegation pursue the same goal. They aim at completing the protracted first stage of the talks as quickly as possible. Then, after the ratification of the 1974 and 1976 treaties, it could be possible to get down to discussing further significant limits to the yield and the number of nuclear tests, including termination of nuclear testing. It can only be hoped that the United States delegation will not deliberately delay the talks. The termination of nuclear testing could effectively block the further development of new weapons of mass destruction and the perfection of existing ones. This is an important part of the process of nuclear disarmament started by the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles signed on 8th December last year.

Pact Experts on European Disarmament Meet

LD152156 Moscow TASS in English 2057 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Budapest April 15 TASS—A regular meeting of a working group of experts of the Warsaw Treaty member-states on matters of the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe was held in the Hungarian capital.

Questions connected with the future talks on these problems as well as with the proposal of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe were also discussed.

The experts looked into the state of affairs at the Vienna meeting of representatives of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries to work out a mandate of the talks on armed forces' and conventional armaments' reduction in Europe.

Journal Conference Makes Exchange Possible

LD150915 Prague International Service in English 1900 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Today was the last full day of the consultative meeting in Prague of senior officials of communist and workers' parties from nearly 90 countries, which participate in the publication of the WORLD MARXIST REVIEW, the leading theoretical journal of the international communist and workers' movement. Vadim Zagladin is the director of the International Department of the CPSU. Our correspondent asked him to comment on the movement's new tasks and objectives:

[Begin Zagladin recording in Russian fading into English translation] Each of the fraternal parties is more independently setting up concrete tasks in the spirit of the principles of our movement. The present difficulties are connected with the reconstruction of the world, with the emergence of new phenomena in the development of capitalism and socialism. These phenomena have not yet been fully understood and analyzed, and this is breaking the working out of strategy and tactics and bringing various subjective problems. The problem which every fraternal party is now faced with lies in the necessity to better learn to know the world, learn to know oneself. The communist movement and every individual party must find its correct place in the new world. It is, however, not easy at all. It will be necessary to think hard, to exchange views and experiences.

In this respect the Prague conference made it possible to exchange views and opinions and to raise many questions which interest the fraternal parties. The second global task is the problem of cooperation, the improvement of the present systems of mutual impacts, the establishment of closer relations among the fraternal parties. Many delegates in Prague said that all the political forces of the present-day world are expanding cooperation and coordination. The communists are going to a lesser extent than required. This question must be solved as well. Not along the old lines but from the viewpoint of new conditions of the new role of the communists. This question must be solved because otherwise the communist and workers' movement would lag behind and diminish its influence on world developments. [end recording]

Answering the question in what he sees the international responsibility for the future of the communist movement, Vadim Zagladin said:

[Begin recording in Russian fading into English translation] At the present a process of changes is under way in practically all socialist countries from China to Cuba. It carries various labels and differs from country to country, but its purpose is identical: to strengthen socialism, to make it more attractive for other nations, but in the first place to improve the quality of life of our own nations. Very important in this process is not to imitate but to learn from experiences. The Soviet Communist Party itself is using many ideas from Czechoslovakia and other countries, and also other parties apply the same method. The exchange of experiences is the first thing that reflects the earlier mentioned responsibility, cooperation in the interest of improving socialism. Our relations must be based on cooperation. It is necessary to find new more effective forms which would make it possible for the socialist countries to march forward more steadfastly. [end recording]

Dobrynin Addresses Conference

LD161928 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1340 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Prague, 16 Mar (TASS)—A.F. Dobrynin, CPSU Central Committee secretary, spoke here today to those taking part in a conference. In a detailed report he illuminated the current problems of the international policy of the Soviet Union and preparations by the CPSU for the 19th All-Union Party Conference. Answers were given to numerous questions from those gathered at the conference.

There was a meeting between A.F. Dobrynin and Soviet workers on the magazine "WORLD MARXIST REVIEW."

Meeting Concludes

LD151647 Moscow TASS in English 1621 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Prague April 15 TASS—Representatives of the communist and workers' parties ended their discussion of the WORLD MARXIST REVIEW (PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM) in Prague today.

90 speakers took the floor during the conference.

The CPSU Delegation to the meeting was led by Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin.

Dobrynin Interview

LD151839 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Anatoliy Dobrynin, CPSU Central Committee secretary, granted an interview today to Czechoslovak radio. Dobrynin is heading the Soviet delegation to the consultative meeting of representatives of communist and workers' parties on the work of the journal "PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM."

Asked how he assessed the current state and prospects for mutual relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, Anatoliy Dobrynin said:

[Begin Dobrynin recording in Russian fading into Czech translation] At present these relations are characterized by a definite qualitative shift, although not to the level we ourselves would like. I would say that they can be linked with the summits which have taken place between Comrade Gorbachev and President Reagan. The first of those meetings, in 1985 in Geneva, was undoubtedly of key importance. The fact that the two officials came out with the joint declaration that there can be no winner in a nuclear war was one of the fundamental points, in particular as far as the United States itself is concerned, where there are certain circles which, until then, had been developing the theory of the need to prepare for such a war by updating the nuclear potential. This is a great victory, both for the policy of the Soviet Union and all the socialist countries, and for all the world's peace-loving public.

These facts forced the United States to concede publicly for the first time not only that a nuclear war cannot be waged, but also that there can be no winners of such a war. That was the first step toward the beginning of new relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. Then came Reykjavik, Washington, and now we are expecting a visit from the U.S. President to the Soviet Union. We see the conclusion of the treaty on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles as an important contribution for the whole world. [end recording]

Now both in our country and in the United States, Anatoliy Dobrynin continued in his interview for Czechoslovak radio, the ratification procedures are underway. Deputies at a series of sessions are voicing their views on the important document. we are now jointly preparing a document on a 50-percent reduction of strategic nuclear weapons. To tell the truth, the work is not progressing as we would like. As we see it, there are a number of obstacles; at the same time, we are going to work on them. The fact nonetheless remains that progress has not been made at such a level as to make it possible to reach a full agreement on the date of the talks between Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan in Moscow, and from the U.S. side a similar interest cannot yet be seen. However, I do not want to anticipate matters. In the next few days, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is due to arrive in Moscow. We will see what he has brought with him and whether that will contribute to tying up the agreement or not.

However, mutual relations between the Soviet Union and the United States are only one aspect of our foreign policy, albeit a very significant one. In our view peace is the concern of all countries, social movements, and national diplomatic efforts. Everyone involved in international affairs must strive for peace. That is why in our policy we attach an important place to Europe and to relations with the West European countries in creating a common and secure European home. Naturally, our relations with the socialist states are a fundamental issue. We act in unity and cooperation with those states to attain our planned goals, Anatoliy Dobrynin stated.

The next question was about the signing of the agreement on a settlement of the Afghan issue. This is what Comrade Anatoliy Dobrynin had to say about that:

[Begin Dobrynin recording in Russian fading into Czech translation] The signing of the agreement yesterday in Geneva is very significant, not only for the Afghan people, but also for the whole international community. The signing of this agreement, which bans all external interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, opens a new stage in the relations which are developing and which will continue to develop between Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States, and the Soviet Union. As Mikhail Gorbachev stated on 8 February and in the subsequent talks with President Najibullah, the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops will begin on 15 May, and I think that by the end of this year, or the first few days of next year, it could be completed.

This is not a simple matter. Not only the Afghan people, but everyone involved in its fight for independence and freedom want victory. The Afghan people and Government still face a number of difficult tasks, whose settlement will take time to achieve. The document signed in Geneva, however, guarantees that external interference into matters which the Afghans themselves must decide will be prevented and those who interfere will, of course, bear full responsibility. [end recording]

Dobrynin Visits Lenin Museum

LD152024 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 15 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast—announcer-read report]

[Text] In Prague today Comrade Dobrynin, who is heading the CPSU delegation to the conference held here on discussing the work of the journal PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM, visited the Vladimir Ilich Lenin Museum. He placed high value on the way the museum's exhibits are presented, stressing that they not only reflect history but also acquaint one with the present-day Soviet Union and with the traditions of USSR-CSSR cooperation.

Delegation Leaves Prague

LD161409 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1346 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Prague, 16 Apr (TASS)—The CPSU delegation headed by A.F.Dobrynin, CPSU Central Committee secretary, which took part in the meeting of representatives of communist and workers' parties to discuss the work of the journal PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM, left Prague today for Moscow.

The delegation includes Y.A. Sklyarov, CPSU Cental Committee candidate member and head of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department, V.V. Zagladin, CPSU Central Committee member and first deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, and G.S. Ostroumov, deputy head of department of the CPSU Central Committee.

The delegation was seen off by V.P. Lomakin, USSR ambassador to CSSR, A.M. Subbotin, chief editor of the journal PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM, and other official figures.

Medvedev Welcomes Dobrynin Home

LD162012 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today the delegation, headed by Comrade Dobrynin, which took part in the conference of representatives of communist and workers' parties to discuss the work of the journal WORLD MARXIST REVIEW, returned to Moscow from Prague.

At the airport, the delegation was met by Comrade Medvedev and senior staff of the CPSU Central Committee.

'Friendship' Exercises End in GDR 15 Apr

LD152108 Moscow TASS in English 2056 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Berlin April 15 TASS—The joint exercises "Druzhba-88" "Friendship-88", ended in the GDR territory today. Units of the National People's Army of the GDR, of the Polish Army and of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany took part in the exercises.

Speaking at a meeting, superviser of the exercises, deputy minister of national defence of the GDR, commander of the land forces of the National People's Army of the GDR, Colonel-General Horst Stechbarth noted that all the tasks that faced the staffs and troops have been fulfilled.

Units that took part in the exercises return to the places of their permanent stationing.

Observers from the countries participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe were present. They were invited by the GDR Government to watch the exercises in accordance with the document of the Stockholm Conference.

Finance Key To Developing Bloc Markets

PM180702 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 25 Mar 88 p 3

[Interview with Doctor of Economic Sciences R. Yevstigneyev, department chief at the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of the Economy of the World Socialist System, by correspondent V. Prokhvatilov under the rubric "The Socialist Countries' Experience in the Property of Progress": "Those Who Have Gone Ahead"—first paragraph is unattributed introduction]

[Text] For a long time our country was the pioneer of the own-resources method of construction. But in the last 10-15 years the situation has changed. A number of the fraternal socialist countries have accumulated great experience in applying in practice economic methods of managing the national economy. What is there to draw from the rich economic depository of the socialist countries—that is what Doctor of Economic Sciences R. Yevstigneyev, department chief at the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of the Economy of the World Socialist System, described in conversation with our correspondent.

[Prokhvatilov] Ruben Nikolayevich, a number of European socialist countries began a policy of economic reform much earlier than we did. Why was that?

[Yevstigneyev] The fact is that the economies of the European CEMA countries have long been characterized by a greater openness [otkrytost] to the world market than our economy. This primarily because they had inadequate reserves of minerals and limited raw material resources combined with production volumes considerably exceeding their own needs. The desire to achieve a high degree of competitiveness on the foreign market was an important cause of the fact that until recently they were ahead of us in improving the economic mechanism. Of course, it is also a fact that at that time there were forces in the leadership of those countries which were able to display political will and begin reforms.

[Prokhvatilov] So all attempts to use our friends' positive experience in our country came up against rejection by its administrative-bureaucratic management system.

Is that the case?

[Yevstigneyev] But now it is a different matter. Restructuring of economic management is changing the economic milieu in which enterprises operate in our country, too. We are trying to create a plan-regulated socialist market or, to be more exact, to free it from the deformations introduced by the administrative-order system.

A socialist market creates rivalry [sostyazatelnost] or, to use the traditional economic term of which many people are afraid for some reason, competition [konkurentsiya]. It is to a great degree precisely through competition that China has made a great forward spurt in the last 10 years—which it did not manage to achieve with command methods. Its example, and also the example of certain other socialist countries cogently proves that the exploitation of market interest can produce a considerable economic effect.

[Prokhvatilov] But after all, the same experience of the socialist countries shows that a market and competition can lead to the aggravation of social contradictions.

[Yevstigneyev] As far as contradictions are concerned, there have always been enough of them. Undoubtedly, the introduction of a market is accompanied by the emergence of a number of social problems. Thus, for example, in those socialist countries where market relations are sufficiently developed, there is quite significant inflation. In Hungary it is 8-10 percent, Poland 20-25 percent, and Yugoslavia 100 percent. Considerable inflation can also be observed in China, and possibly also a slowdown in the rate of improvement of living standards. It cannot be ruled out that temporary unemployment may appear.

However, there is no alternative to the new methods of management. We ought not to be afraid of contradictions. We need to foresee them and know how to combat them. By what method? By learning to manage a socialist market. In the last 3 decades the CEMA countries have made repeated attempts to switch to economic management methods. But they have not produced substantial results. This has happened because they have attempted to manage the market by redistributing between the center and the enterprises the functions of disposing of the total social product. Here any expansion of an enterprise's independence inevitably led to the limitation of the center's interests and a weakening of the planning principle. The desire to avoid this forced them to return periodically to the former methods of rigid centralized management.

If we depict the economic process in the CEMA countries in the last 30 years on a graph, we see that it is cyclical in nature. The duration of each cycle is approximately 10 years. Within each cycle of course, there are repeated instances of animation of economic activity, increases in efficiency, and improvements in qualitative indicators—these occur in the mid-fifties, the mid-sixties, the mid-seventies, and the mid-eighties, that is, in those periods when there was a weakening of administrative methods. Recessions occurred in the intervening periods, when the center took power back into its own hands again.

[Prokhvatilov] Is there a way out of this closed circuit?

[Yevstigneyev] Finance is the main motive force of the economy. Finance and credit organs must be raised to the top of the managerial pyramid. This process is already beginning to be reviewed in the CEMA countries. In recent years, for instance, the economic role of financial instruments has been increased and the importance of banks has grown in Hungary, Bulgaria, and Poland. But to ensure they do not prove to be generals without an army, it is necessary to make enterprises active participants in the market. To achieve this it is necessary to rid ourselves of the chief vice of our economy—the immobility of resources (primarily financial resources)—and increase their turnover rate, and to free ourselves as far as possible to transfer capital to the hot spots of the national economy.

Here we have something to learn from our friends. Since January this year, for instance, Hungarian enterprises have obtained full independence in disposing of capital earned and distributing it among the various funds. Reciprocal provision of credit is also very promising. One enterprise can grant commercial credit to another enterprise on condition that it is used with the maximum return. For instance, to produce export goods. Part of the debt can be canceled with currency. Commercial banks created by enterprises on share principles are playing an increasingly important role in Hungary, Poland, and Bulgaria.

Forms of capital accumulation such as the issuing of bonds are also interesting. This is practiced in Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, and China. Some bonds are disseminated among the population, and some are purchased by other enterprises. The demand for bonds is very high. This is understandable—the annual interest rate in Hungary, for instance, is 15 percent, which is much more than for fixed term deposits in savings banks. Thus, securities, investments, and scientific ideas are gradually also beginning to be included in the sphere of operation of the socialist market, alongside consumer goods and means of production.

It must be noted that all these changes in the economic mechanism are aimed at the gradual "purging" of loss-making and unprofitable enterprises. In some socialist countries special laws on bankruptcy have even been adopted and are being applied. Thus, last year in Hungary eight cases were brought concerning the winding up of state enterprises. In five cases it was decided to improve the enterprises, and in two it was decided to liquidate them. At the same time the state is taking strenuous measures against increased unemployment. At the beginning of this year an employment fund was created, designed to finance retraining courses for unemployed workers, pay for job placement grants and preferential early pensions, and maintain capital investments for the creation of new jobs. Original methods of getting rid of loss-making enterprises are being used in the PRC. Thus, for example, in December last year a resolution was adopted permitting major and highly efficient enterprises to buy or lease from the state small and mainly unprofitable enterprises. At the same time the conditions objectively help to strengthen strong and efficiently operating enterprises. These are the main recipients of various kinds of subsidies and allowances.

[Prokhvatilov] In connection with the switch to intensive management methods a question inevitably arises about the pace of economic growth. What should it be?

[Yevstigneyev] Managing an economy means resolving the threefold task of combining efficiency, balance, and pace. At the stage of intensive development, forcing the pace as an end in itself—without a structured restructuring of balance in the economy—does not change the situation in the national economy but only drives the disease deep inside, aggravating the situation even more.

In the mid-seventies, for example, an attempt was made in Poland to combine accelerated development with economic reform. But it turned out that in conditions of the overheating of the economy, market methods do not work and reform goes into a skid. The 10th PZPR Congress, held the year before last, acknowledged the practical failure of this economic strategy. Acceleration is the essence of the draft party program and its strategic concepts, the PZPR Central Committee report to the congress stated. However, considering the complexity of the situation, the following was put forward as one of the most important tasks of the first phase of acceleration: "To strengthen the bases of economic development, to restore equilibrium, and to alleviate the most acute imbalances."

To ensure that the threefold task is resolved in optimum fashion, it is also necessary to carry out political reform in parallel. An active search for methods to tackle these questions is being carried out in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and China. That is the main thrust of the socioeconomic restructuring currently in progress in the world socialist system.

CEMA Groups Discuss Air Traffic Control

LD162052 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1405 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Riga, 16 Apr (TASS)—"The sky over Europe today is like an intersection in a large town at rush hour," is how participants at a conference of CEMA civil aviation experts explained to a TASS correspondent their concern at the difficulty of using airspace in the current conditions in this region. The meeting of specialists was held over 3 days in Jurmala (Soviet Latvia). Discussed here were matters relating to enhancing the safety and regularity of international flights linking European countries, where every hour thousands of planes cross on different "floors" on an area the size of a postage stamp.

"To forecast this whole process," Tatyana Anodina, chief of the International Links Directorate of Aeroflot's experimental center said, "we have set up an information center in Moscow, taking into account the experience of the CSSR, where a local data bank is already operating. It plans the work of air traffic controllers operating on the territory of CEMA countries for a few weeks in advance. With its help, the crews of planes flying international routes will be provided with up-to-the-minute information about changes in flight plans. Being taken into account as "the latest news" for pilots also are such phenomena as strikes by airline workers in West European airports enroute or air force maneuvers, for instance."

At the Jurmala meeting, the task of coordinating the work of the Prague and Moscow centers was resolved and matters were examined relating to the organization of an exchange of up-to-the-minute information with the data bank in Brussels set up by the Common Market member-states. The experts representing Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Romania, and the USSR also drew up basic principles of cooperation between both the European information centers in keeping with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Deputy Foreign Minister Holds Briefing 15 Apr

Geneva Accords To Be Honored

LD151324 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilyev today said it was gratifying that most nations had welcomed the Geneva accords as a positive shift in Soviet foreign policy and an important step that would help to settle other regional conflicts as well.

Perfilyev, deputy chief of the ministry's Information Directorate, said at a briefing here: "One cannot but agree with comments that it is imperative for the sides to fulfil their obligations in good faith".

"The Soviet Union," he added, "intends to go about honoring its commitments in all seriousness and with utter responsibility."

"One cannot but pay attention, however, also to warlike trends manifested in some places and a striving to introduce elements that can negatively affect the peace process and complicate the task facing the Afghan people of independently deciding its destiny and achieving peace in Afghanistan on the basis of national reconciliation and the unity of all the patriotic forces.

"The task confronting the sides that have signed the Geneva accords is to justify the hopes pinned on these documents by world opinion," Perfilyev said.

"The Soviet Union's contribution to the settlement has not been reduced to signing agreements. The USSR is prepared to continue doing everything depending on it for an early resolution of the problem in close contact with all the sides concerned," the Soviet spokesman stressed.

U.S. Human Rights Viewed

LD151313 Moscow TASS in English 1305 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—"There are quite a few contradictions in the U.S. position on human rights," deputy head of the Information Directorate of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Vadim Perfilyev told a briefing today.

The United States, he said, ratified only 6 out of 22 major human rights conventions. The international documents, which are yet to be signed by the USA, include international covenants on human rights, which the United Nations qualifies as very important documents.

The U.S. refusal to be a party to them is used by the United States in some cases to follow norms which violate human rights. The Soviet spokesman cited as an example the following fact: the practice of passing death sentences on minors, banned by the international covenant on civil and political rights, remains in the USA.

"The international covenants provide for a mechanism of monitoring. By staying out of them, the United States dodges international obligations and evades answering legitimate questions on the human rights record in its own country. Claims by any state to monitor the observance of human rights in various regions of the world would look groundless. They are all the more inadmissible on the part of the USA which often feels temptation to lecture others, despite the fact that it itself does not take part in the fulfilment of main human rights documents," Vadim Perfilyev stressed.

Wegener Cited on CW Accord

LD151427 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilyev at a briefing today commented on remarks by Henning Wegener, NATO's assistant secretary-general for political affairs, who had claimed that new difficulties had arisen in the way of a convention to ban chemical weapons.

"That this theme has been addressed can only be welcomed as concluding the relevant convention really is a priority goal, and an immediate rather than a long-term one at that.

"But the United States and some of its NATO allies are not displaying a desire to conclude the convention as soon as possible. And Wegener's remarks on this score reflect this trend."

"The USSR," the spokesman said further, "purposefully presses for the convention to be prepared without delay. We continue to believe that the talks for preparing the convention for signature can be concluded as early as the near future, provided the political will for this on the art of all countries."

Greeks Cited on U.S. Report

LD151417 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—According to reports from Athens, the report by the U.S. Department of State and USIA on Soviet propaganda and disinformation caught attention in Greece, Vadim Perfilyev, deputy head of the Information Directorate of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told a briefing today. In particular, he continued, the Greek press considered as a provocation directed personally against Andreas Papandreou allegations in the report that 10 years ago the prime minister fell victim to the Soviet propaganda, which allegedly planted disinformation on him about the U.S. position on Greek-Turkish differences.

"One can understand the Greek journalists who ask the question: Why should such authoritative services of the USA need to plant a fabrication about 'Moscow hand' at the current moment when the talks on the fate of military bases and U.S. facilities in Greece are being conducted? The more so that far from helping the forgery contradicts the positive trends which have emerged in Greek-Turkish relations after the prime ministers' meeting in Davos."

As for the Soviet view of the above fact, Vadim Perfilyev said, it is consistent with the opinion on this matter expressed in the statement of an official representative of the Greek Government.

Danes on Nuclear-Armed Ships

LD151435 Moscow TASS in English 1418 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—At a press briefing here today deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate Vadim Perfilyev was asked about the Soviet Union's attitude to the Danish parliament's resolution urging foreign naval ships entering Danish ports to report the presence of nuclear arms on board.

When asking this question the Danish journalist said that the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz had described this resolution as being fraught with serious consequences for cooperation between NATO countries and Denmark. Some observers, he said, liken this resolution to last year's decision of the New Zealand authorities to ban entry into territorial waters by ships with atomic power plants or nuclear arms on board.

"From our point of view the decisions adopted by foreign countries in accordance with their constitutions should be observed and that is exactly how we act when this directly concerns us," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed in his answer.

Nuclear Test Monitoring Held

LD151449 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—The purpose of the joint Soviet-American experiment to monitor nuclear explosions is to use the analysis of its results as a basis for drawing up a draft protocol to the Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests, a press briefing here today was told by Vadim Perfilyev, deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate.

"The USSR wants the joint experiment to be conducted as speedily as possible. To speed up its preparation a group of Soviet specialists has already been sent to the testing range in Nevada", the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "The arrival of American specialists in Semipalatinsk is expected shortly".

ITER Council Created

LD151442 Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—In connection with the forthcoming opening on April 21 of the first session of the guiding body of the project to create a thermonuclear reactor—the ITER Council, deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate Vadim Perfilyev stressed at a press briefing here today that the project's member countries—the USSR, the United States, Japan and members of Euratom—are on the threshold of an international experiment that is unique in terms of scope and almost fantastic in terms of concept. The session is to be convened at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

The idea of multilateral cooperation in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion belongs to the Soviet Union, Vadim Perfilyev said. During meetings with the presidents of France and the United States in 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev proposed to pool the efforts of scientists of various countries to conduct joint work in the field of using controlled thermonuclear fusion for peaceful purposes, he said further. The implementation of such a project could result in the creation of an inexhaustible source of energy for the good of the whole of mankind.

It is intended to conduct the work on the ITER project in several stages, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The IAEA will take part. During the first stage, intended to span three years (1988-1990), the scientists from the project's participant countries will work out the concept and possible technical characteristics of the reactor.

Euratom's nuclear research centre at the Max Planck Physics of Plasma Research Institute near Munich has been chosen as the site for this work.

Sergeyev on Facilities for Foreign Journalists

LD161114 Moscow TASS in English 1010 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—Commentator Grigoriy Sergeyev writes:

Questions of the exchange of information and ensuring the professional activity of journalists invariably hold a place of prominence in the general East-West discussion. Western propaganda never tires of rebuking the Soviet Union and instructing it what it should do to curry favour with the West.

Hardly anyone can deny that in recent years there have been serious changes in the field of information as a whole. The principles of openness are being asserted also in respect of foreign journalists working in the USSR.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act the Soviet Union strives to do the maximum to create optimum conditions for the work of foreign journalists. There are no artificial obstacles to their accreditation in Moscow. Journalists are provided with working and living premises and means of communication. Here are some revealing figures: The number of permanently accredited journalists in Moscow has trebled during the past three years. Today more than 460 representatives of the foreign mass media are working in the Soviet Union.

An effort has been made in recent years to satisfy as fully as possible the professional interests of journalists from various countries. Some 4-5 briefings and press conferences on various aspects of political, public and cultural life are held every week at the press centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs alone. The speakers include prominent statesmen, politicians and public figures, including from abroad. Many similar activities are conducted by other ministries and agencies as well.

Foreign journalists are invited to virtually all functions on an equal footing as Soviet journalists. They hear and see what their Soviet colleagues hear and see. There is no double standard. Answers are given to any questions, even if they are "inconvenient" ones, that is are of a provocative nature.

Along with press conferences and briefings the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs gives foreign journalists extensive assistance in getting exclusive materials and interviews, organises for them on an average two-three trips a month to various parts of the country, often to very distant ones.

In their professional activities foreign journalists are helped not only by the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs but also by other organisations. For instance, TASS supplies some 300 foreign subscribers in Moscow (figures as of January 1988) with a 24-hour news service.

The USSR State Radio and Television Committee last year organised some 1,889 filming sessions for television journalists from capitalist countries. They were conducted not only in Moscow, Leningrad and the capitals of union republics but also in areas traditionally considered "closed" for foreigners. For instance, Chukotka, Siberia and Murmansk. Late last year a television crew from the FRG was given a possibility to film in Kaliningrad.

All-round assistance to foreign journalists is given by the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY and individual Soviet newspapers.

Of course, not everything is yet perfect and there are shortcomings. The policy of openness in some places is striking root with difficulty. But rephrasing a known saying we could say that he who has no shortcomings should be the first to throw a stone at us.

CSCE Meeting Resumes in Vienna 15 Apr

LD151533 Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna April 15 TASS—TASS correspondent Anatoliy Tyupayev reports:

The Vienna meeting of representatives of participating countries in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe resumed here today after a brief recess. A call for speeding up the achievement of arrangement on military-political, commercial, economic and humanitarian matters discussed at the meeting was made at a plenary meeting. The delegates also declared for a speedier agreement on a list of European measures in these areas to be taken following the Vienna meeting. It is noted here that there are real opportunities for working out a pithy and balanced final document of the meeting and for a successful conclusion of a European forum in the months ahead.

The plenary meeting was addressed by Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov who informed the delegates of the decision of the foreign ministers' committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-states held in Sofia and of the address to all the participants in the Helsinki conference adopted at the foreign ministers' committee.

Socialist International Statement Opposes SDI

LD160122 Moscow TASS in English 2300 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Lisbon April 15 TASS—Participants in a meeting of the Committee of the Socialist International on Economic Problems that ended in Estoril today pointed out progress in the East-West relations observed of late. They emphasized the importance of measures aimed at achieving disarmament and went on record in favour of channelling the resources spent today on the arms race to the eradication of hunger, poverty and diseases in developing countries.

In this connection participants in the meeting opposed the "Star Wars" program. The world does not need the "Strategic Defense Initiative", it needs initiatives aimed at disarmament and development, a final declaration of the meeting pointed out. The meeting was attended by representatives of some 20 parties.

Marxist Journal Reviewed at Communist Meeting

LD171107 Moscow TASS in English 0717 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Prague April 17 TASS—The delegations of 93 communist, workers' and revolutionary-democratic parties took part in the discussion of the work of the "WORLD MARXIST REVIEW", a journal of the fraternal parties, in Prague on April 12-15, says a report on the results of this discussion published here.

At the conference emphasis was put on the coverage of the issues of averting nuclear holocaust, of disarmament, first and foremost nuclear disarmament, the correlation of the work for peace with the struggle for national and social liberation, the socio-economic advancement, the dialogue and cooperation of the communists with all peace-minded and democratic forces. Many participants in the conference underscored the importance of the new mode of political thinking in the age of ours.

79th Interparliamentary Union Congress Ends

LD172001 Moscow TASS in English 1946 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Guatemala City April 17 TASS—TASS correspondent A.Trushin reports:

The 79th conference of the Interparliamentary Union has come to a close here. It was attended by parliamentarians from 94 countries, among them a delegation of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR led by Aleksey Yeliseyev, deputy chairman of the Parliamentary Group.

One of the main resolutions of the conference emphasizes that the parliamentarians and governments of countries should intensify efforts towards disarmament, particularly nuclear one, towards elimination of seats of tension, a settlement of international disputes, and the switch-over of resources, which are now being used for arming purposes, into peaceful uses. It is pointed out that security of countries in present-day conditions can be achieved only by political means.

The document welcomes the signing of the Treaty by the Soviet Union and the United States on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles and calls for making further steps in the field of nuclear disarmament and for curbing the arms race.

The conference urged the governments of all countries to make efforts to remove the threat of armed conflicts, to achieve political stability, to create an atmosphere of trust in the world, and to ensure social, economic and cultural development.

The conference adopted a special resolution on Central America, expresses conviction that the peoples of the region can and must tackle their problems without interference from the outside.

The participants in the conference supported the political dialogue being conducted by Central American countries, evaluating it as the only real way to achieve peace. The resolution reaffirms the right of the people of Panama to sovereignty and self-determination, and calls for an end to interference in the internal affairs of that country.

A regular conference of the Interparliamentary Union is to be held in Sofia in September this year.

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable'

LD172027 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 17 Apr 88

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Igor Pavlovich Charikov, All-Union Radio foreign political commentator; Nikolay Ivanovich Agayants, international affairs journalist; and Viktor Aleksandrovich Tsoppi, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI observer]

[Text] [Charikov] Hello, esteemed comrades. Our guests today are my colleague, the international affairs journalist Nikolay Ivanovich Agayants, and the observer Viktor Aleksandrovich Tsoppi, of the weekly MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI.

I think we ought to begin by announcing briefly the subjects we'll be talking about today, and outlining the range of problems we'll be dealing with. I think we should sum up the visit to the Soviet Union of the president of the CSSR, Comrade Husak, and say something about the event that is on everyone's lips literally all over the world, namely the signing on Thursday of the documents on the political settlement in Afghanistan. Then another thing that merits attention, I think, is an event that also took place last week, a Soviet-U.S. meeting of businessmen—the 11th annual meeting of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council [ASTEC]. Well, and I expect we'll also touch on other themes that are characteristic of today's world.

As I said then, among events of various degrees of significance and scale, I think we should single out the official friendly visit to our country of the president of Czecholovakia, Gustav Husak. The CSSR press, radio, and television and the media of the other socialist countries are continuing to comment extensively on this event. An article published in the Bratislava newspaper PRAVDA emphasizes that in the course of the Czechoslovak-Soviet talks and during the conversation at the Kremlin between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Comrade Husak, a central place was occupied by the exchange of information about the restructuring and democratization of socialist society, being carried out both in the USSR and in fraternal Czechoslovakia.

[Agayants] I think the first thing to be said here, Igor Pavlovich, is this: In the practical work of building a new society, there is a long-established and admirable tradition of holding meetings of fraternal states' leaders at summit level, in the course of which they examine, define more precisely, and correct plans of interaction both in the field of bilateral cooperation and in the sphere of international relations. In this sense, the official friendly visit to our country of the Czechoslovakian president was no exception. The Moscow talks confirmed once again the determination of the CPSU and CPCZ, and of our states and peoples, to move toward achieving their common aim by way of strengthening their unity and cooperation. It was noted that, despite certain differences in their specific character, the coincidence of the directions and processes of restructuring creates favorable prerequisites and guarantees for the further dynamic and fruitful development of mutually beneficial Soviet-Czechoslovak relations.

[Tsoppi] It is common knowledge that the many-sided contacts and ties between our countries are on a high level—that is an indisputable fact. And we can be satisfied with the shape they are in. But we know that life does not stand still: It insistently demands that these ties should be improved and enriched, and that the wealth of accumulated experience in the area of state construction and international relations should be studied and mutually utilized.

[Agayants] That's absolutely right. We have much to learn, both from each other and from our brothers in the community. Let me say that there's nothing to be ashamed of in that—nothing wounding to the national pride of our peoples. Today, in the period of restructuring—and this is natural—special importance attaches to the development of economic ties between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. The task of perfecting the structure of commodity circulation, and also of applying progressive forms of cooperation, moves into the forefront. The latter include the further deepening of coproduction and specialization within particular industries and development of direct links between factories and production associations and the setting-up of joint enterprises.

[Charikov] I share your point of view, and I want to remind you that at the Soviet-Czechoslovak talks in Moscow, one of the points emphasized was that scope for introducing everything new and progressive can and must be provided today. Also, the deep economic reforms that are now being put into practice both in our country and in Czechoslovakia create the preconditions that are absolutely necessary if that is to be done. Cooperation in the cultural sphere—as both sides noted with satisfaction—plays an important part in the deepening of Soviet-Czechoslovak ties. Its further development will be promoted by the documents signed during Comrade Husak's Moscow visit, such as the protocol setting up an intergovermental commission on cooperation in the sphere of culture, education and science, and also the agreement on the founding and operation of a CSSR cultural and information center in the USSR.

[Agayants] I would like to draw attention, Igor Pavlovich, to another fact which is highly typical of the present stage in the development of our states. During Comrade Husak's meetings and conversations with the Soviet leaders, it was noted unanimously that a most cardinal condition of restructuring in the social and political life of both countries is its broad democratization; that the practical embodiment of the principles of democracy and glasnost is a reliable guarantee against possible attempts to bring about administrative and bureaucratic distortions of socialism. What we're talking about is the need for a division of functions between party and state bodies, and also the fact that the work of all party, state, and public organizations, officials and citizens must be based on the most stringent observance of legality, so as to ensure an organic combination of initiative and responsibility.

[Charikov] Well, Nikolay Ivanovich, while we're on this subject, I think we will have to say a word or two, albeit briefly, about the latest plenum of the CPCZ Central Committee.

[Agayants] Undoubtedly. The plenum put forward the tasks of elaborating new forms of party activity, substantially improving the machinery of state administration, making it more efficient, reducing the apparat in the center and in the provinces, and reducing the number of ministries and reviewing their tasks and methods of work. It was stressed that all levels of the political system must act more independently and more responsibly, since restructuring demands this. That is a course to which there is no alternative if the possibilities and advantages of socialism are to be fully revealed and embodied.

But let's get back to Comrade Husak's visit to the Soviet Union. The Soviet-Czechoslovak talks have shown that our peoples face difficult but perfectly feasible tasks. The salutary changes that are taking place in the social and political life of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia are a powerful spur to the transition to intensive development, to the organic melding of socialism with scientific and technical progress, and to the attainment of a qualitatively new level of the development of socialist society for the benefit of our peoples and for the benefit of peace. The parties to the talks were unanimous in their assessment of the current international situation and of how security can be further strengthened and the threat of a nuclear catastrophe removed.

[Charikov] The Soviet Union has repeatedly declared that it is for the peoples themselves to decide their own destiny without prompting and without any sort of pressure from outside. Only on the basis of these principles—fundamental principles—is it possible to resolve regional conflicts. This fully applies to Afghanistan, which, as the events of the last few days testify, is on the threshold of long-awaited peace. On Thursday, 14 April, in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, in the hall that is becoming ever more historic—it was there, as you know, that the League of Nations used to hold its sessions, and the international conference on Indochina was held in 1954, and the conference on Berlin, and on Laos, and now the disarmament conference is being held there and so on—in that same hall, then, the solemn ceremony was held that everyone has been waiting for for a very long time. The so-called Geneva package—now officially so called—was signed: Several documents which lay the foundation for a political settlement in Afghanistan. The content of these documents has been set forth in our press. It is being widely commented on everywhere, and various conjectures are being made as to the way that country may develop in the future. The consequences of that document for solving other problems in the world are being commented on also.

[Tsoppi] You know, Igor Pavlovich, on my way to work I have quite often passed the Rayon Military Commisariat in Vavilov Street in Moscow, where they would be assembling the boys whose time had come to serve in the Army. Schoolboys and technical college students, not yet soldiers, on that day they would be leaving childhood behind them as it were, having serious conversations with the officers or simply standing about in silence, finishing off the cigarette that was now legal and thinking about what was in store for them in Army life. As I looked into the faces of those boys, I just couldn't shake off the question that was tormenting me: about the meaning of this war in a country with which we've been peaceful neighbors since Lenin's time, about when this war will finally end. That it must be brought to an end was said as long ago as the 27th congress of our party, but we know it is always easier to start a war than to finish it. It took many more long months of fierce fighting and exhausting negotiations in search of solutions acceptable to all those who had been drawn into this tornado of war, till we can say today with confidence and a sense of enormous joy that the war in Afghanistan is ending. Less than a month from now, on 15 May, in many Soviet homes they'll begin welcoming with honor and love their 'Afghans.' Let us cast our minds back: On 8 February this year, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in Moscow and President Najibullah in Kabul made statements which immediately brought the Afghan-Pakistani talks into the domain of practical solutions. On 7 April this year, this time in Tashkent, the leaders of our countries issued a joint declaration announcing that the last obstacles to concluding agreements had been cleared away and that they advocated signing them without delay. Another highly important circumstance was the fact that not only the Soviet Union, but the United States as well, had now expressed their willingness to act as guarantors of those agreements. Then came 14 April, when those agreements were at last signed in Geneva. This has been an event of truly great international resonance and great justice. The peace that has wrested from war the whole of the long-suffering land of Afghanistan will now enable all Afghans, without discrimination of any kind, to create their own state as they themselves see fit. It is humanism in the highest sense of the word that has dictated the point in the Tashkent declaration, which states: "The Soviet Union, on the basis of relations of traditional historic friendship, expresses its willingness to cooperate with Afghanistan at a high level in restoring the economy of the Republic of Afghanistan and promoting its economic and social development."

[Charikov] No doubt you will have noticed, Viktor Aleksandrovich, in your reading of the foreign press or news agency reports that many observers are comparing—quite legitimately, I think—the Geneva agreement, in regard to its political resonance, with the INF Treaty. In principle, these two documents belong to quite different spheres of international life, but what they have in common is that they lay the foundation for some process. If, say, the INF Treaty signed in Washington lays—has laid, rather—the foundation for the process of eliminating nuclear weapons, then the Afghanistan agreements—in the first place they give a boost to the process of national reconciliation within the country—create a model, as it were, of how—as you have just said—other knots can be untied and other regional conflicts resolved.

[Tsoppi] Yes, you know, I would even like to draw some general conclusions in this connection—well, schematically, as it were. It occurs to me that politics today, if it is dictated by the new, innovative thinking, if it casts off prejudice and ulterior motives, could become a universal medicine, or, if you like, a therapy or treatment for all the many ills that mankind is heir to. Politics is capable of saving a multitude of people from death, as has happened in Afghanistan.

[Charikov] I agree.

[Tsoppi] Politics is capable of relieving the acute pain of economic distortions and contradictions. It can free the minds of certain statesman from their maniacal condition, teach us to relinquish paranoia, suspicion, and arrogance, transform hostility into mutual understanding, and create a state of the spirit and of public awareness that will even make possible total and universal nuclear and other disarmament. This purpose—this therapeutic purpose—of the new policies, of the new political thinking, ought by rights to be patented as one of the most important discoveries of all times and nations.

Thinking about Asia, I am constantly aware of the fact that I am, after all, a European, and that though in Europe there is no war at the moment, though no blood is being shed and there is some development—one kind in the West, and another in the East of Europe—Europe requires very serious and, I would say, very close attention from politicians, cultural figures, scientists and all Europeans, from all who live in the European home. This relatively new term, the common European home, is being used today more and more frequently. The European home exists, although living in it is still uncomfortable and cramped due to all kinds of restrictions. These obstructions include all the different types of weapons, which sometimes don't even leave room to swing a cat. Admittedly, there will soon be a bit more space, once the Europeans have chucked out the intermediate- and shorter-range missiles from their territory. Further steps to demilitarize the continent or, I would say, to detoxify or disinfect it, will make this home of ours even more habitable, though by no means everyone is happy with this process. Great Britain and France, for instance, are doing all they can to prop up the old wall of nuclear deterrence, claiming that only it can save Europe from an intra-European conflict and aggression by the Soviet Union.

[Charikov] But to be frank, it wasn't they who thought up the...

[Tsoppi, interrupting] It wasn't they who thought up...

[Charikov, continuing] ...actual formula of deterrence. But one way or another, they've now armed themselves with it more vigorously than its inventors.

[Tsoppi] Than its creators themselves, yes. France is seeking an organic military alliance with West Germany. Again France, which is besieged on all sides by social adversity and economic disorders, is spending increasing, senseless sums on super-armament, including the creation of the most up-to-date nuclear, missile, marine, and aviation weapons. Most Frenchmen, however, in contrast to the deputies and ministers they have elected, do not want to take such a pernicious path. The first round of the French presidential election is to be held in a week's time. There are three main candidates for the office of head of state: incumbent president and socialist, Francois Mitterrand; incumbent rightwing prime minister, Jacques Chirac; former, and also rightwing, prime minister, Raymond Barre, whom the French call their top economist. There's also the leader of the extreme rightwing National Front, Jean-Marie le Pen, who has no hope of getting into the presidential palace. In this situation, the French Communist Party has put forward its own candidate—the highly-esteemed Andre Lajoinie. He is currently touring the whole of France and talking to the French in the language of truth. He is exposing the antipopular and antinational policies of the other candidates and of previous governments. I won't dwell on all the twists and turns of this election campaign and all the arguments being put forward by the French Communists' candidates, but I would like to mention just one figure from a poll conducted a few days ago by the weekly REVOLUTION. Seventy-one percent of those polled stated that France should take part in the disarmament process, since that is the most important thing. It is the most important thing, and the solution to all other social and economic problems in the country depends on it.

[Agayants] What they mean is active and independent participation, rather than merely supporting, let's say, the steps being taken by two of the other great powers—the Soviet Union and the United States.

[Tsoppi] It would be a good thing if they could even support the steps being taken by two of the other great powers, but up until now they have adopted the stance of an outside observer, claiming that it doesn't affect them and that they have absolutely no intention of getting mixed up in such things. So anyway, 71 percent of those polled stated that France ought to, definitely ought to, take part in the disarmament process—that's the main thing. But it turns out here that on this issue in particular, the Communists' candidate, who is campaigning under the triple slogan of "Justice, freedom and peace," says, avoiding any kind of politicking—and there's been more than enough politicking during this election campaign in France so, avoiding any kind of politicking or demagogy, he addresses the real issues confronting people. This is why that 71 percent are in favor of disarmament, because the Communists' candidate is showing just how pernicious the arms race is; he is showing that France cannot now lag behind worldwide processes that have already embraced the entire world. And this is very encouraging. It indicates that in Western Europe, too, in a country where for very many people, anti-Sovietism and fear of the Soviet threat have long replaced religion and simply common sense, there are many people, many true Europeans, who would like their home to be peaceful instead of caving in around their ears as a result of excessive deterrence.

[Charikov] I would like to return, Viktor Aleksandrovich, to a very interesting—from my point of view—and highly apt image that you used earlier in this discussion, when you talked of politics as a means of therapy. Well, it seems to me that the last week has once again brought confirmation of loyalty to that role of politics as a means for curing woes. I'm thinking specifically about the sitting of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council [ASTEC]. We are all well aware that trade and economic links between our two countries are not in a satisfactory state at the moment, that both sides are expressing a willingness to expand these links and contacts. This is illustrated by the very fact that more than 500 U.S. businessmen came to Moscow for the 11th ASTEC annual general meeting and that the delegation was lead by U.S. Secretary of Commerce William Verity. Yet it's not merely a matter of wishes. We are well aware that up until now there have been various kinds of artificial obstacles and barriers in operation in the United States, and it seems to me that it is in this sense that politics as a means of therapy, politics as, in this case, a means of persuasion, will play a crucial role.

[Agayants] I would like to add the following to what you said earlier, Igor Pavlovich: Throughout the entire history of our state, and not through any fault of ours, Soviet-U.S. trade and economic relations have developed unevenly, in fits and starts. There have been times when they have improved, and others when they have deteriorated at a dizzy rate.

[Charikov] And extremely prolonged ones, I would say.

[Agayants] Yes, you're right. In 1931, for example, Soviet purchases in the United States, in today's prices, reached $600 million. But in 1954—you will recall this, of course—after the war, the entire trade turnover came to barely 12 million—a laughable sum. On the eve of Nixon's visit to the USSR in May 1972, trade turnover was $184 million—can there really be serious relations, business relations, between great powers at such a level? During the period of detente—a short period—despite the fact that the United States failed to grant the status of most favored nation to our country....

[Charikov] I will interrupt you, Nikolay Ivanovich. Let us recall when this status of most favored nation was granted to our country for the first time—it was in 1937, the very year when our diplomatic relations, which took an offiical shape in 1933, were just beginning to be built. It was precisely then that we were granted this status. And when was it withdrawn? It was withdrawn at the height of the cold war, after the so called Battle Act—Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act—had been adopted. It was a prototype of the Cocom.

[Agayants] Yes, but it was precisely during the period of detente, as I have already said, that the United States failed to opt for restoring the status of most favoured nation to its trade with our country. Yet even then the growth of commodity exchange continued steadily and reached $4.3 billion. Then a new embargo and new discriminatory barriers and obstacles followed. Business should not be run like that, for trade, like love, requires reciprocity. It cannot and should not be a one-way traffic. But have a look at the situation. Until now the United States has had an active balance in trade with us. Up to this day, U.S. deliveries have been mainly limited to exporting to the USSR grain, phosphoric acid used in fertilizer production, pressure-sensitive tape used in oil pipelines, and so on. We supply distillate fuel, urea, ammiac, palladium quick-frozen crabs, vodka, cavier, and furs—not much. Obviously, such a situation cannot be described as normal. As THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR has written, both sides should seek for ways to expand trade as much as possible. The broader such links between the two superpowers will be, the newspaper noted, the better long-term prospects for international peace will be, too. Is it reasonable? Yes, it is. But specific steps are required for this. And here is something that seems curious and very symptomatic to me.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, which can hardly be suspected of any liking for socialism, when evaluating realistically the situation that has arisen in our relations writes, I quote: Washington should change its approach and the laws themselves that ban selling not very technologically-intensive products—personal computers, for instance—while keeping only certain restrictions on selling technology and equipment which have exclusively military uses. The expansion of trade would benefit both the United States and the USSR, provided the agreements adopted are implemented on a thoroughly analyzed and specific basis, the newspaper stresses. Well, as has been already reported, issues of trade and economic cooperation between our countries will be included in the agenda of the upcoming Soviet-U.S. summit in Moscow. We hope that the cartload of trade and economic problems that has accumulated over many years will get moving, at last.

[Charikov] Perhaps you noticed, Nikolay Ivanovich, that Marshall Shulman, the famous scientist, who's a professor at Harriman Institute, was among the guests of the 11th annual meeting of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council. Well, when talking to journalists here in Moscow and weighing prospects and problems, Marshall Shulman described as difficult the following things. First, bureaucracy—he had in mind, probably, both our bureaucrats and U.S. ones. Second, he said the shortage of freely convertible currency in the USSR is a barrier in the way of expanding trade. The third thing that Marshall Shulman noticed was, as he put it, the insufficiently high quality of Soviet goods which, precisely for this reason, are not competitive enough on the U.S. market. What do you think: Is he right?

[Agayants] You see, Igor Pavlovich, Marshall Shulman is a well-known specialist and expert on the Soviet Union, and if he comes out with some charts or proposals, one can be sure that they are based on good knowledge of problems and relations between our two countries that are in evidence. In spite of all the complexities, say, that are present in establishing normal relations, I think this problem can be solved in view of the broad restructuring which is under way now in our country precisely in the activity of foreign trade organizations. As for the quality of goods, here, one could say, he hit the nail on the head. The thing is that from many sides—as regards both industrial output and our consumer goods—we are considerably below world standards. I think that if now, in the next few years when many enterprises are going over to self-financing, self-recouping and new economic methods, if we set the production of quality goods going in our country, this will become the foundation and the base that will make it possible for us to break into international markets, including the U.S. one.

I know, for instance, that many American and Canadian firms were interested in, say, our helicopters, our hydrofoil craft, hovercraft, the cross-country vehicles that were exhibited in Canada and then in the United States by our Tupolev firm. So, there is a subject for discussion and, I think that as far as quality is concerned, this is a problem that can be solved. Everything can be agreed upon provided there is real goodwill. Let us hope that the summit between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Reagan in late May, early June, this year in Moscow will make it possible to unravel the knots on this issue, too.

[Charikov] Well, comrades, our time is up. On behalf of our participants, I thank you for your attention and bid you farewell. Goodbye, and all the best to you.

'International Situation—Questions and Answers'

LD160931 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 15 Apr 88

["International Situation Questions and Answers" program presented by Konstantin Patsyuk, with Kabul correspondent Aleksandr Shkirando; Vladimir Ivanovich Bogachev, TASS military observer; Sergey Pravdin, "my colleague"; and commentator Aleksandr Malikov]

[Excerpts] [Patsyuk] Hello, esteemed comrades. We begin our broadcast, which is as usual based on listeners' letters. They ask us to speak about various events or touch upon various themes and topics. The exception to this is the event with which I plan to start the broadcast, and which is not yet reflected in the letters from our listeners: the event that took place on 14 April and that literally riveted the attention of the foreign media. I mean the signing in the Geneva Palace of Nations of the Geneva documenents on the political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

So, the diplomatic process connected with an Afghan settlement has been completed. It is hard to overestimate its significance. It creates favorable prerequisites for advancing the national reconciliation policy in that country, and for establishing a broad intra-Afghan dialogue with the aim of stemming the bloodshed and creating peace on Afghan soil. This is an important breakthrough in the process of unblocking regional conflicts and is a specific example of the new thinking in world politics. The Afghan authorities take just such an approach to the issue of an Afghan settlement. More than a year ago, they proclaimed the policy of national reconciliation. As they themselves have on several occasions stated, the new political way of thinking lies at the heart of this policy. In what specific ways is it manifest? I shall ask our correspondent in Kabul, Aleksandr Shkirando, to answer this. His report is by way of an answer to the letters of many listeners, including Comrade Karimov from Leningrad, in the Tajik SSR.

[Shkirando, by telephone] First and foremost, the Afghan leadership has sought to halt the sensless and bloody war by embarking upon a number of important concessions and compromises. This, however, is not regarded by the Afghan leadership as a sign of weakness on the part of people's power. One of the main steps taken within the framework of national reconcilation in recent times has been the creation and strengthening of people's power on the basis of a coalition, of an economy on a multistructural basis, and of a political system founded on party pluralism. The conditions required for the creation and strengthening of coalition government with the participation of representatives of opposition forces have evolved. [passage omitted]

[Patsyuk] The elections in Afghanistan coincided with the meeting held in Tashkent between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and with the adoption of a joint Soviet-Afghan statement. How has this been received in Afghanistan?

[Shkirando] This event has generated unheard of interest here among all members of the Afghan public, including the opposition. Up until then, some Afghans had been rather pessimistic, conscious of the fact that the Soviet troops would withdraw from Afghanistan, leaving them face to face with their difficulties and problems. Members of the opposition harbored doubts as to the sincerity of the Soviet Union's statement of 8 March on the withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan. This latest joint Soviet-Afghan statement on the one hand dispersed all these doubts, and on the other hand provided reassurance for those Afghans who had doubts as to the continued relationship of friendship and mutual assistance between our countries. In assessing this event, Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the central council of the biggest sociopolitical organization in Afghanistan—the National Front—told me in a recent conversation: The latest meeting between the leaders of our two countries and the joint Afghan-Soviet statement have reaffirmed the traditional nature of the friendly relations that have existed between Afghanistan and the USSR since 1919, when our country attained its independence, and have created all conditions for the successful completion of the Geneva talks. [passage omitted]

[Patsyuk] Many listeners express satisfaction in their letters over the signing of the Soviet-U.S. treaty scrapping intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. But some voice doubts as to the military significance of this treaty. Thus, Petr Sergeyevich Trigubov from Gomel Oblast writes that under the treaty, only 3 to 4 percent of the total quantity of nuclear warheads in the world are to be destroyed. This will, he says, hardly reduce the threat of a nuclear disaster. Yes, it is true that the overwhelming majority of nuclear charges are on strategic missiles. But on the other hand, 4 percent of nuclear warheads is no small figure. It is well known that 5 percent of such warhead charges would be enough to destroy all life on earth. Nor should it be forgotten that the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is just the first step on the road to other agreements, above all, on strategic offensive weapons with a range of more than 5,500 km.

Now talks are continuing in Geneva on strategic and offensive weapons. Press reports indicate that the sides have still not reached a mutually acceptable solution on long-range cruise missiles. It is said that at the heart of the U.S. position is the demand for a minimal restriction on these missiles. We thought it would be interesting to dwell on our own and on the U.S. stances and show the approaches of the two sides to the issue of long-range cruise missiles. Today we have invited Vladimir Ivanovich Bogachev, TASS observer on military affairs, to our microphone.

[Bogachev] First, some history of these missiles. Cruise missiles were created by the United States in the mid seventies. The Pentagon pinned great hopes on this system, calling it a wonder weapon which was to ensure for the United States military superiority over the Soviet Union. I should say straight away that these hopes of Washington's were not justified.

[Patsyuk] So what are they?

[Bogachev] Basically they are a pilotless flying apparatus that can carry either non-nuclear or nuclear charges. They home in on a target according to a previously written program that allows them to bypass the enemy's anti-aircraft defense zones and natural obstacles such as mountains. Cruise missiles can home in on their targets at a height of around 30 m. This makes it harder for the enemy to spot them. They possess an extremely high degree of precision, and that is their main feature.

[Patsyuk] It is said that if 100 cruise missiles were launched from any distance at a given target, 50 of them would land within a radius of less than 30 m.

[Bogachev] Yes, that is probably so. They can be launched from any number of platforms: from bombers, ground-based mobile installations, ships' torpedo equipment, or simply from the decks of ships. It is a relatively inexpensive weapon. At any rate, it is cheaper than a conventional aircraft.

[Patsyuk] Do these missiles have any defects?

[Bogachev] I would list their comparatively low speed—subsonic speed—among their flaws. Once discovered—and that is the main difficulty—cruise missiles can be destroyed by conventional air defense means: fighters, anti-aircraft artillery, even using barrage balloons such as were used against aircraft in World War II.

Cruise missiles find their way to their targets by using their instruments to, as it were, feel their way over natural features, and by using a special TERCOM guidance system. However, some U.S. experts believe that cruise missiles could get lost if, for instance, the flight program loaded had been written in summer, and the launch took place in winter, when the earth's surface is covered in a thick layer of snow.

As yet, cruise missiles cannot hit moving targets. So their main targets must be stationary objects: rail junctions and dams, command points, power stations, depots, communications centers, and the like.

[Patsyuk] Now, Vladimir Ivanovich, be so kind as to outline in brief the Soviet Union's stance on cruise missiles at the talks.

[Bogachev] At the talks the Soviet side is guided by the principled position of our country: There is no weapon that the Soviet Union would not agree to scrap on a mutually-acceptable basis. So far as the Soviet side is concerned, the broader the range of nuclear and conventional weapons to be scrapped, the better. We support the complete destruction of long-range cruise missiles, or to start with a susbstantial reduction in, and limitation of, their numbers, with reliabel verification [kontrol]. Incidentally, intermediate-range cruise missiles are liable to be scrapped under the INF Treaty

[Patsyuk] At the talks, the U.S. side is attempting to remove the issue of long-range cruise missiles from the scope of the talks. Why is this so?

[Bogachev] Strange as it may seem, there is a purely economic reason among the motives for this U.S. stance. For many years now, Washington has been relying on undermining the economic might of the USSR using the arms race. The extreme right-wingers in the United States fear the successful implementation of the economic plans of our country much more than they do our missiles. Washington calculates that the mass deployment of cruise missiles by the United States will require the Soviet Union to take retaliatory defensive steps, which would entail vast material resources. Speaking some years ago in a Senate committee discussion of funds for cruise missiles, Malcolm Currie, the then director of the Defense Research Agency, said, and I quote: I think that in a few years the Soviet Union will be quite capable of creating and deploying a broad and effective system of modern surface-to-air missiles for defense against cruise missiles. This, as it happens, is just what we need: It will cost many billions of dollars. We want to force them by our strategy to undertake these expenses.

Incidentally, the Americans calculate that anticruise missile means cost between four and five times more to build than do the cruise missiles themselves.

[Patsyuk] It should be said that some sober-thinking American experts condemn Washington's present approach to cruise missiles.

[Bogachev] In recent times, the United States has not squandered large sums on creating air defense systems. Should there be cruise missile rivalry, these experts note, the United States would inevitably have to bear the enormous cost of building its anti-aircraft defenses almost from scratch.

[Patsyuk] Judging by press reports, difficulties have arisen at the Geneva talks particularly over the question of limiting long-range sea-based cruise missiles. What have you to say about the essence of this disagreement?

[Bogachev] Yes, indeed, Konstantin Nikolayevich, the United States does not want to ban these missiles completely. Therefore, the Soviet delegation in Geneva has proposed limiting the number of long-range sea-based cruise missiles with nuclear warheads to 400 on either side, with the right to deploy them on precisely defined classes of warship. This is to ensure verification.

In addition, the Soviet proposal permits the deployment of another 600 such cruise missiles with conventional, nonnuclear, warheads. Ioncidentally, our country has proposed effective ways to differentiate between nuclear cruise missiles and nonnuclear cruise missiles.

In particular, Washington is refusging to accept the USSR's proposal to limit cruise missiles with conventional nuclear [as heard] warheads. At the same time, it is known that cruise missiles with conventional, nonnuclear, warheads can quickly be rearmed as nuclear missiles. And this is dangerous. The U.S. Administration will clearly only be happy with a completely free hand to build up these destabilizing weapons.

One can only hope that eventually common sense will triumph in Washington and that it will ponder just what the uncontrolled deployment of cruise missiles could lead to. Aside from everything else, the aim of economically wearing down the USSR in the arms race could rebound on the United States. A mutually acceptable solution to the long-range sea-based cruise missile question would be an important step on the path to agreeing a treaty on the whole package of strategic arms. [passage omitted on Pravdin, Malikov remarks]

United States & Canada

Bogachev on Bush's 'Bellicose Neo-Globalism'

LD162118 Moscow TASS in English 2050 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

Candidate to the U.S. Presidency from the Republican Party George Bush set out his foreign policy creed whose essence is that the United States in resolving virtually any international problem should operate from a position of strength, not stopping at outright interference in internal affairs of sovereign states.

Addressing a conference of the American Society of Newspaper Editors George Bush mentioned possible targets for the use of muscle by the United States to achieve its political, economic and military aims. They include Mexico, a neighbour of the USA, where Americans, don't you see, should "bolster free enterprise", the Philippines where, Washington intends, with the assistance of Japan and South Korea, to suppress the movement for the elimination of U.S. military bases, and Panama where, according to the vice-president, the government undesirable for him should be overthrown.

According to Bush, the U.S. power pressure should be applied selectively to different countries. If he is elected president, he intends, for instance, not to use force against the racist South African regime. Moreover, the candidate from the Republican Party rejects the proposals for the application of economic sanctions against the Pretoria regime, since he is of the opinion this might harm the U.S. "strategic interests," and for understandable reasons, the criterion of a democratic character of a country recedes to the background, and the United States military and economic interests are given preference.

It follows from Bush's speech at the conference of the American Society of Newspaper Editors that if he is elected president, he will be "operating from a position of strength" not only with regard to Nicaragua, Afghanistan or Panama. He declares unambiguously that "Japan should be pushed to go beyond its current rate of expansion for its own national defense". He thus intends to erode Tokyo's positions in the world markets.

Touching upon the problems of disarmament Bush accused his rivals in the election campaign that they make recommendations for "unilateral cuts in the muscle of the defense effort" of the USA with "no concession on the part of the Soviet Union". As is known, the Soviet delegation does not advance such demands at the talks on arms control. For instance, in Geneva, the sides are agreeing on strategic arms reductions to an equal level of delivery vehicles and nuclear warheads. Can it be that Bush discovered "Moscow's hand" in the headquarters of the Democratic Party of the USA?

In any case, Bush has not shown in his statement the striving to be deciding problems of arms reduction with the Soviet Union on a mutually-acceptable basis. The concept of bellicose neo-globalism on which Bush insisted in Washington does not go together with the concept of lowering the level of military confrontation by talks on disarmament.

Moscow TV Roundtable Discusses U.S. Relations

LD170444 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1750 GMT 16 Apr 88

["Roundtable on Relations With the United States" presented by journalist Eduard Aleksandrovich Sorokin, with Georgiy Arkadiyevich Arbatov, director of the USSR Institute of the USA and Canada, and Valentin Mikhaylovich Falin, chairman of the board of the NOVOSTI Press Agency]

[Text] [Sorokin] Hello, comrades. First of all, let me introduce those taking part in today's meeting: Georgiy Arkadiyevich Arbatov, academician and director of the Institute of the United States and Canada, and Valentin Mikhaylovich Falin, doctor of historical sciences and chairman of the board of NOVOSTI Press Agency.

Our intention is to devote today's conversation to Soviet-American relations, since the general situation in the world largely depends on their state. The documents on Afghanistan have just been signed. In a couple of days, the U.S. secretary of state, Shultz, will be coming to Moscow. And at the end of May, the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting will take place.

But President Reagan has just addressed a congress of U.S. newspaper editors in Washington; and that speech has, to put it mildly, caused perplexity and raised a lot of questions. That is why we've chosen that particular speech, on this particular day, as the subject of our discussion.

[Falin] Indeed, if we look at Soviet-U.S. relations from the point of view of the events that have just taken place—the Washington summit, the intensive work on the new disarmament treaties, and you've mentioned the Afghan documents—that speech falls outside the context of those relations. It falls so far outside that not everything can be explained logically, not everything can be analyzed from the standpoint of common sense. It is not susceptible to such analysis.

I will quote a few things from this speech by the President so that our listeners and viewers will know what we are talking about. The President began his speech with the observation that there is a titanic struggle being waged in the world today. I have often described it as the struggle between freedom and totalitarianism, he said, but you could also call it the struggle between the pen and the sword, between the First Amendment to our Constitution and Article Six of the Soviet Constitution, which, the President claims places the party above the country. Well, you will notice that here everything is: freedom is the United States, lack of freedom is us; the pen, of course, is in the hands of the United States and the sword in the hands of the Soviet Union. I continue the quotation: The wave of that struggle is becoming more and more evident, at least on one front, with the United States and the free industrial countries surging ahead in the sphere of technical development, while the Soviet Union and its, I quote, vassals—that's the term the President uses—are falling further and further behind. He goes on: How can a blindfolded society—that's the President's assertion—keep its balance on the shaky industrial base of the land?

The whole speech, actually, is in the same vain. The Soviet leaders speak of glasnost—he puts glasnost in quotation marks. We are not, the President continues, belittling the significance of what is happening in the USSR and we hope the Soviet Union really will become a freer society. That is why it is our duty of conscience to put pressure on the Soviets to do better and not to allow them to deceive themselves or us.

There follows a run-down of how this is to be achieved: What we must do, are obliged to do, required to do in the Soviet Union if we want to be in the good books of the head of the U.S. Administration. What the general secretary must do; what the Soviet media must do; what needs to be changed in Soviet legislation; and what alterations are called for in Soviet foreign and domestic policy. In the old days, people with pretensions of that sort used to be known in Russia as tutors [dyadka—also a pejorative form of dyadya, uncle]. Today, it is Uncle Sam who is putting himself forward as our tutor. I think that is no way to talk in relations between sovereign states, either in the light of the problems that our countries are trying to solve—above all, our countries—both in their own interests and in the interests of the world as a whole, or from the standpoint of the post that Reagan occupies. It is unworthy.

I do not think this is just a relapse into the cold war, or simply a return to the rhetoric that has never been helpful in the past and will never help us in the future. What we are up against here is a phenomenon for which an explanation can be found only in the United States itself and to some extent in the personality of the President himself.

What, then, is the general conclusion that the President arrives at in his speech? What is the point he is putting across to his American listeners? What is the main thing in U.S. policy and what is the main tool or lever in the U.S. relations with the Soviet Union and with other countries whose internal systems are not to Washington's liking for one reason or another? Strength! Strength first and last, and nothing but strength. The President sees no other arguments; and it is to strength, and strength above all, that he appeals.

[Arbatov] I read the President's speech, and I could not shake off the impression that if things were going well for him, he would not be talking like this, in spite of the relaxed tone—the tone of mockery even, the note of familiarity and even a certain impudence, put on for effect. There was the way he put glasnost in quotes, as Valentin Mikhaylovich was saying. That cannot-...[changes thought] I'd even say it is insulting. Because this is something Soviet people have achieved through suffering, something that is gaining acceptance and is already proving to be such an effective influence on our life and is making such an enormous impression on the international public. And it is also the very thing that is lacking at the present time in the United States. Yet he indulges in this sort of talk.

But all this—the free and easy manner and the high-handed attitude—cannot conceal the fact, as I have said, that he is not doing it because things are going well. Consider: At home, towards the end of his presidency, it is becoming obvious that everything is falling apart, things are in a mess; and when the results have to be summed up, they turn out to be pretty depressing. That is true of the economy, economic instability.

And here the President should not throw stones, because the United States is having a hard time, the payments deficit is increasing—the trade deficit above all, because they are having to compete and they are on a shaky footing in technology. They are having to yield more and more to their competitors. They are losing ground because all their resources are concentrated on the arms industry, on military research and development. Seventy-three percent of the allocations for science and development go to the Pentagon. And the upshot is loss of competitiveness.

The political scandals, one scandalous revelation after another. You know, the image of America—Reagan's America—is losing its luster. It is beginning to fade, both in the eyes of Americans and in the eyes of the international public. That is one process. And parallel with it, another process is occurring: The image of the Soviet Union is changing radically. There is an erosion and disintegration of the image of the enemy which for many years has been one of the mainstays of the whole policy, and even of the ideology and the general outlook of many people in the West.

Now Thatcher—this applies particularly to the Conservatives. Conservatives everywhere are very frightened of these changes; and Thatcher, who is the embodiment of Conservatism, said frankly in February, in her address to the NATO ambassadors, that the Russian bear was far easier to deal with when he was more bearlike. She said it with a certain consternation. And these changes really are happening, and they put all the creators of the previous policy in a very tricky situation.

And it was these two circumstances that Reagan, in fact, had in mind when he was giving out homework, as it were, for the U.S. newspaper editors and teaching them how to do their job. First, they were to divert the attention of the U.S. papers from what's going on at home, from the scandals and exposures, the economic troubles and so on. And second, he was telling them to set the hounds of the press on us.

Reagan is wrong, by the way, to grumble about his press. During the time he has been in office he has managed to intimidate them pretty thoroughly. The press has become astonishingly conformist, while on the contrary, in its attitude to us is has been very, very strongly prejudiced. You know, it has become a rule never to say even the most elementary thing about the Soviet Union without immediately heaping abuse on us. One example I can remember is that when the first pedestrian street was opened in Moscow, the Arbat, the fact was reported, but they hastened to say: Yes, this is beautiful and that is beautiful, but one must not forget that right next to it is the Ministry of Defense, where all the sinister plans are being hatched.

I don't think this has had any effect. What is happening in our country has captured everyone's imagination. It is a significant fact, after all, that it is not just the newspapers, the media. There are the books. So many books have been published lately about restructuring, about economic reform, about glasnost in the Soviet Union, that you can not keep up with them all. In the United States! More of those books are being published there than here. Our publishers seem to be less quick off the mark. And you know, these are not books written from a hostile standpoint: they are books which increasingly contain objective lines of thought. And that is what they are afraid of.

[Sorokin] Yes, indeed. Reagan does often use the word glasnost in quotation marks. Recently he was going on about some wall dividing East from West, and calling on the Soviet Union to open the door to the Western radio stations. So here there was some sort of misunderstanding, since jamming ceased long ago. And here is a figure I would like to quote at this point: The radio stations of the world, including those in the West, broadcast in Russian for a total of more than 90 hours a day, in addition to 65 hours a day in the national languages of the Soviet Union. It is another matter that these broadcasts are not having the effect that Washington would like. The radical and revolutionary changes in the Soviet Union, the democratization of Soviet society, and glasnost—this time without quotation marks, of course—reduce the effect of the Western broadcasts.

[Arbatov] Yes, it is like immunization, you know. When an organism grows in a sterile environment and a consciousness emerges, the result is very fragile, and very unstable, vulnerable to any influence. Whereas what we have begun, what we are doing, even though it is a difficult process and often a painful process, does not evade difficult issues but speaks, looks the truth boldly in the eye and speaks the truth even when it is unpleasant. But on the other hand, this does indeed generate conviction and stability, and immunizes against all these things associated with the cold war and the attempts to confuse Soviet people.

[Falin] I'll continue the subject of glasnost. Glasnost, in quotation marks, applies to the United States. The listener in the United States could get the impression from Reagan's speech that all the problems have been solved there, that there are no problems, that the Americans have access to such an abundance of information as provides or enables them to form a full and exact picture of what is happening.

The name Gallop is familiar to all our listeners and in the world as a whole. He was the founder of the Institute of Public Opinion; and it is Gallop who has established that the United States is the least well-informed nation on earth. How does this happen? Is it a paradox, or is it what you'd expect? It would seem that with the most developed mass media, the most developed television, newspapers and so on, and the most saturated news market—but what is it saturated with? That is the question.

[Arbatov] Yes, the mass information media are more and more often beginning to play the role of media of mass disinformation. And, you know, this has assumed particularly sharply-defined forms precisely int the Reagan period. This is the most ideologized, the most ideological U.S. administration I can remember. Perhaps in part it is because there are a lot of Trotskiyites there who have dyed themselves as leftists and who exert themselves with special zeal in the field of ideology. I cannot help recalling something that was said by Thomas Jefferson, a great American and one of the first presidents of the United States: I tremble for my country, he said, when I remember that God is just.

[Falin] If in U.S. schools—in many of the schools—Darwin has now been banned because he is at variance with American notions of the best way of life; if in some states of the United States Mark Twain is persecuted and Shakespeare is considered to be in decline, then we find ourselves in the position of having to ask ourselves what sort of society that really is.

[Arbatov] And this is very typical of them, this return to the dirtiest tricks, to the use of falsifications, taken at times from Nazi sources. Goebbels issued special booklets of forged Lenin quotations at the beginning of the World War II to cause us to fall out with our Western allies. Forged quotations are taken from there and have been constantly repeated not just by anybody, but by the

President of the United States! There was the story about the Bulgarian connection, about acid rain, where we were accused of using chemical weapons in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan. There have been a whole series of these things, simply disgraceful. And quite honestly, I would not rake them up in a situation in which there are such changes going on in our country, but they themselves are forcing us to remember all that.

[Falin] Naturally. But the United States is a very multifaceted country, one that has many different aspects to it, and if we are speaking about some of those aspects we are certainly not thinking of the American people, in the first place, we are not thinking about U.S. society as a whole. What we have in mind are certain manifestations in that society which make us think, think and think again about the people with whom we are dealing.

[Sorokin] In 1981 President Reagan called the Soviet Union the evil empire, whose place was on the garbage dump of history. The rhetoric of the President's latest speech brought back that statement, though at the same time—and a lot of time has gone by since then—a great deal has changed. So how is one to explain this relapse into the cold war in the President's speech on the eve of Shultz' visit to Moscow, and, finally, in the run-up to the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting?

[Arbatov] I myself have this question in my mind all the time. The picture one gets, you know, is a somewhat strange one. On Wednesday of this week, on the eve—the documents concerning Afghanistan were due to be signed in Geneva on Thursday—the conference of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council was taking place in Moscow and there was a reception at which Comrade Gorbachev made a speech. Then, at the request of Mr Verity, they go off during the reception for one-on-one discussion. I gather that there's some kind of sad message or some such thing on its way from the President. The mood of everyone was even elated, one might say—things were moving, as they say, as far as prospects were concerned. And the same day the President, who conveys one thing via Verity, makes this speech which is couched in the spirit of the worst times of the cold war in front of the editors of U.S. newspapers. That is the complicated reality that one has to deal with all the time. And all the time you ask yourself: Perhaps there are two presidents. It seems like it—there is the one Reagan, and then there's another Reagan.

[Falin] A certain normality has shown itself here, a normality that we have been observing with a certain amount of alarm over the past few years, too. Take the following: Either on the eve of a meeting or immediately after a summit meeting or both on the eve of a meeting and after it, meetings at which problems of the most major nature are being discussed—and discussed in a businesslike way, it has to be said—the President makes a speech in public and says, essentially, things that are the opposite of what he intends to say at the meeting or which he has already said at the meeting. The impression can be created that he wants to justify himself to someone, either to atone for the sin that he intends to commit or has just committed; that he wants to say that he is just the same as he was in 1981, that he has not changed, that he does not intend to change.

Perhaps the answer to this question is given by one thing that was said by Secretary of State Shultz. With your permission I will quote it. This is what he said: Logic is alien to democracy. Historically the U.S. goes first to one extreme and then to the other. We strive to rattle sabres, then we hold talks, Shultz continued.

To do these things at the same time is beyond our capability. I do not want to dwell particularly on the fact that sabre-rattling, particularly by such a huge country and one with such an enormous military potential as that of the United States, is not a thing for a responsible power to do, because doing things like that can lead to something being done that can never be put right—and not just in relations between us, between the USSR and the United States—the irretrievable might happen as far as life on earth as a whole is concerned. But we see, nevertheless, that this business of doing something positive on even dates and something totally negative on odd dates—for, if Shultz is to be believed, inconsistency of that kind is a feature of democracy, it is its characteristic birthmark—then today, in the light of the President's speech, we can state that the United States, the U.S. Administration, has not yet got rid of this disease, for it cannot be described as anything else.

[Arbatov] And this destabilizes the whole situation dreadfully.

[Sorokin] Reagan delivered his speech on the eve of the signing of the documents on Afghanistan. In the Soviet Union it is hoped that the reaching of the accords will have a positive effect upon the solution of other regional conflicts and problems. But this is what Reagan says: From restraint, from simply defending our interests, we have moved over to a strategy based upon the extension of freedom. In other words, he is advocating the stepping up of interference in the internal affairs of other sovereign, independent states. How would you comment on this thesis, Valentin Mikhaylovich?

[Falin] This extension of freedom used to be called expansion in the language of diplomacy. It used to be considered that expansion was a natural phenomenon and moreover a mark of the health of a nation. Our concepts of freedom differ completely in this respect; and I believe that it is pointless to talk and argue about this topic with this president and with certain other representatives.

But there is one essential question. If you look at the way the President in this speech interprets the very process of the achievement of the accords on Afghanistan, the way in which he interprets the signing of these documents and their possible consequences, then you cannot fail to notice the following: Whereas we consider—and it's not just a question of considering, this is how it really was and is—that the accords on Afghanistan were made possible as a result of goodwill and willingness to take into account and make paramount the national interests of the Afghans themselves, Reagan once again reduces everything to one consideration—to strength. He considers that it was strength that conditioned the behavior of the Soviet Union and the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, that it was strength that forced the Soviet Union and the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan to place their signatures on the documents, and that it will be strength in the future that will determine the nature of the behavior of the partners in the accords that have been reached in the process of their fulfillment.

[Arbatov] Here again, perhaps, alongside that hymn to strength—which is very characteristic of this administration—there is also an attempt in some way to take the edge off the impression that the political boldness and resolution of the Soviet Union which led to the signing of the Afghanistan documents is inevitably bound to have on the world public.

[Falin] On the outcome and the results in Afghanistan and the conclusions which are being drawn by the sides from this historic event, we must of course look at the interest that determines this or that approach to what has happened. Let's take Central America. If the United States, following, say, the example that has brought about the success of the talks about Afghanistan, were to set off along the path of taking into account the interests of the respective states in Central and Latin America, and in other parts of the world too, perhaps conditions would be created in which it would no longer be necessary to arm the contras, to exert the kind of mass pressure that the United States is exerting today on Panama in order literally to crush that country. Conditions would be created in which a question mark would essentially be placed over the entire policy of the United States in this region of Latin and Central America.

[Arbatov] Beyond that, I think that this would place a question mark over the whole Reagan doctrine, which has become one of the important foundations of U.S policy, a doctrine that is absolutely contrary to law, which assumes for itself the right, the right for the United States to arm, to organize, and to finance any formations from emigre rabble and mercenaries and whoever else you like, in order for them to wage war against the legitimate governments of those countries where these governments are not to the Americans' liking. This is very characteristic, it is a substitute, a substitute for colonial wars which the United States introduced after Vietnam, which produced the appropriate impression upon the U.S. public. They came to the conclusion—the leaders in the United States—that waging wars in which American blood is shed is very disadvantageous from the domestic point of view, from the point of view of the internal situation in the United States. And they, therefore, went over to the absolutely amoral practice of spilling the blood of others. And this is what the U.S. regional policy is built on in very many places. It is a kind of vampire policy, a policy of bloodshed: the United States gives the money, the United States gives the weapons; the blood is given by other people.

And this is now being overturned, and the whole of this line of double standards is being overturned, too, one that is also very characteristic of U.S. policy. They talk about freedom. But who are the United Statess' best friends in that same Central American region? There's Stroessner, the bloody dictator. There's the bloody dictator Pinochet. Until recently there was Duvalier, too; and his successors have turned out to be just the same.

That's the value of this policy. And it is now being placed in doubt; these methods are being placed in doubt. This is seen by the U.S. Congress—against which Reagan, in fact, is taking up arms in this speech—Congress which has not financed the war of the contras against Nicaragua for whole periods of time.

[Falin] Because there are enough people in Congress who understand that mercenaries are no freedom fighters, no legionnaires of freedom, as Reagan calls them. They are criminals of the most ordinary kind who are prepared to kill anyone so long as they are paid.

[Sorokin] And the last question I would like to ask: Reagan's speech, then, is it a cold war relapse or is it something more than that?

[Arbatov] You know it is both: The whole situation here amounts to this, that Americans can no longer go on conducting their policy in the old way, and the present administration does not want to conduct policy in a new way.

[Falin] In LITERATURNAYA GAZETA recently one pundit wrote the following: Invention without intent is a scheme. I see the scheme of this speech as being to say as many comforting words as possible to the right-wing camp—or as Reagan puts it to the conservative, anticommunist camp in the United States—in order to bring it home again and again that he, Reagan, is the guardian of tradition and that he has no intention of departing from that tradition. Perhaps that is how he wanted it. But he said something that went a little further in my view. He said, I believe, and expressed his desire and his inner intention to do only those things that he cannot avoid doing in the interests of peace, detente, normal relations, and disarmament—in other words, to make concessions not to us, but to common sense.

[Arbatov] And to the intractable economic and political realities, which are very stern realities in our day.

[Falin] From this it follows that the current administration of the United States is certainly not moving in the vanguard of the tendency, in the vanguard of the development which is due to make the world more stable, more peaceful, more humane. Instead, the United States is bringing up the rear of this column. If President Reagan abandoned the rhetoric, abandoned his own inclination to indulge in polemics—and nothing sensible is ever born of polemics; of argument, yes, but not of polemics—if he put himself in tune with cooperation, then in the Soviet Union, in the Soviet Union today, he has an honest, reliable and open partner, filled with goodwill, filled with desire to solve all problems at the negotiations table, not on a basis of a confrontation of interests but on the basis of balancing them in a precisely measured way, balancing the interests of the Soviet Union and the United States, of our friends and our allies, so that no settlement that benefits us will be detrimental to the United States and its friends and vice versa; and that no settlement that is advantageous to the United States shall do harm to ourselves. This is a sensible basis and the only basis upon which it is possible to seek and find a common language.

[Sorokin] Well, the time envisaged for our discussion is ending. It remains for me to thank you, Georgiy Arkadiyevich, and you, Valentin Mikhaylovich, and you, too, esteemed television viewers, for your attention. All the best to you.

Comparison of PRAVDA on Reagan Speech

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 16 April carries in its First Edition on page 5 an article by Gennadiy Vasilyev entitled: "'Cold War' Stereotypes Once Again". The PRAVDA First Edition report has been compared to the PRAVDA Second Edition article published in the 15 April DAILY REPORT on pages 9-10, under the subhead "Speech's 'Troglodyte Philosophy," revealing the following sole variation: Page 10, column one, paragraph one, sentence seven, First Edition reads:...its multicolored diversity?

The President admits...(deleting passage and picking up second paragraph).

U.S. Paper Cited on Action Against Iran

LD171145 Moscow TASS in English 0901 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 17 TASS—The Reagan administration is considering possible retaliatory measures against Iran in the military sphere in connection with the incident with the Samuel B. Roberts destroyer of the U.S. Navy that took place in the Persian Gulf Thursday, the newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES reported in its Sunday issue with reference to U.S. official sources.

The U.S. Naval ship struck a mine and nearly sank. Ten of its crew members were wounded. According to the newspaper, the U.S. Administration believes that the explosion and the subsequent finding of mines made in Iran confirmed information to the effect that Iran had resumed the mining of the Persian Gulf after a six-month break.

The newspaper pointed out that although officials refused to discuss possible U.S. actions, they stated nevertheless that a military response could follow. Possible retaliatory measures can include a whole range of measures, from broader patrolling of the Gulf area to dealing a military blow. The purpose of the blow would be to demonstrate that the U.S. is not going to ignore the recent challenge for the only reason that it did not bring about serious damage and injuries.

U.S. Paper Speculates on Plan To Attack Libya

LD171150 Moscow TASS in English 1116 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 17 TASS—The U.S. is planning an armed action against Libya, the newspaper NEW YORK POST reported today with reference to informed sources.

According to the newspaper, concrete versions of possible armed actions against Libya will be submitted for the consideration of the President next week. The White House which accuses Tripoli of 'international terrorism' describes those actions as retaliatory measures. President Reagan ordered U.S. intelligence agencies that they provide him with concrete evidence of Libya's complicity in international terrorism, NEW YORK POST wrote.

Observers call attention to the fact that the report of NEW YORK POST coincided in time with the second anniversary of the U.S. aggression against Libya, when U.S. warplanes had bombed cities of that Arab country in April 1986.

Speaking about a possible attack on Libya, Marlin Fitzwater, White House spokesman, pointed out that U.S. officials never disclosed their future armed actions. However, he made it clear that Washington could take measures against Libya.

Further Reportage on ASTEC Activities

Dobrynin, Hammer Hold Talks

LD151507 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr (TASS)—Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has met Armand Hammer, prominent representative of business circles and a public figure in the United States, and chairman of the board of "Occidental Petroleum Corporation."

Sharing the impressions made on U.S. businessmen by Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the reception in the Kremlin on the occasion of the annual meeting of ASTEC [American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council] members, Armand Hammer emphasized that it was perceived as a confirmation of the firm intention of the Soviet leadership to proceed by way of constructive development of Soviet-U.S. relations, including the establishment of trade and economic contacts on the basis of mutual advantage and mutual respect for the interests of each other.

A number of practical issues of further development of Soviet-U.S. cooperation was discussed in the course of the conversation which passed in a businesslike and amicable atmosphere.

Gusev Receives Monsanto's Mahoney

LD151057 Moscow TASS in English 1010 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Gusev received on April 14 president of the firm Monsanto Corporation Richard Mahoney, who took part in the 11th annual meeting of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council (ASTEC).

They discussed cooperation in the chemical industry, development and production of the chemical means of plant protection.

Andreas Grants Interview

LD151238 Moscow TASS in English 0949 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—TASS special correspondents Yevgeniy Babenko and Andrey Orlov report from Moscow's World Trade Centre:

Following the completion of the 11th annual session of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council, we were received by Dwayne Orville Andreas, cochairman of the council on the American side, who kindly answered our questions:

Question: What is your opinion of the meeting? How do you see the relationship between the political and economic aspects of bilateral cooperation?

Answer: I think trade follows the flag. With Mr. Gorgachev and Mr. Reagan clearing a way to make progress in a step-by-step disarmament programme, the feeling of our business community is that that will also lead to a climate that would be conducive to doing more business. Trade between our two countries is slow and low and we believe that a lot more business can be done, particularly under the joint venture programme.

Question: What are your impressions of the meeting with the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and of the speech he made at the Kremlin reception on April 12?

Answer: I thought it was a very important speech. And he made some very significant points concerning the restructuring and glasnost. I also had some private talks with him along the lines of his speech. It is very clear that he indicated that our countries are getting closer together. The Soviet Union is borrowing market-oriented activities from practices in the West in order to make Lenin's socialism work better and, as I've said to him, for many years now we've been borrowing socialist schemes in the West to make capitalism work better. And I look forward to a few decades at least of peaceful cooperation.

I think in the general way the reaction in our country is manifested by the fact that Mr. Gorbachev at the present time is very, very popular. In a recent poll that I saw, 77 per cent of the people said they very much approved of Mr. Gorbachev and his policies. That is very unusual, that is very high. Historically, it would have been a one-digit number. So I think that answers your question. He is popular not just as a person of course, but because of the policies that he represents.

Question: What is, in your view, the importance of the two consortiums formed on the Soviet and American sides?

Answer: There are two reasons for which they are important. In some cases, a single private firm may just not be big enough or have a broad enough scope of its activity to do justice to a very large project in the Soviet Union. Another reason is simply that the consortium can act as a clearing house for seven or ten or more companies and many of the contracts and agreements that have to be made can be negotiated once instead of seven times. So it is the matter of doing it more efficiently. Furthermore, some companies import, while others export, and to a certain extent we can pool the transactions. So it is just a way of doing business that makes it possible to do it bigger and better. And the Soviets seem to like that, Gorbachev expressed himself as being in favour of that and the Soviets have formed a similar consortium from their own industries and agencies.

Question: Are there any limitations and barriers in the way of Soviet-U.S. joint ventures?

Answer: Let me just say there are no insurmountable barriers. But in any business transaction the negotiations start with differences and the purpose of the negotiation is to dissolve the differences and reach agreements that are good for both sides. I don't know of any insurmountable barriers. I think that your people have done a good job of eliminating the insurmountable barriers one at a time when they passed the law. And in the negotiations they go even further: They have been very rational and very reasonable. And while, yes there are barriers, I say that they are being overcome in the process of negotiation.

Question: What do you, a prominent U.S. businessman, think of agreements on a political settlement in Afghanistan?

Answer: In the United States, most of our business is done by publicly owned cooperatives and publicly owned corporations, which therefore they are extremely responsive to public opinion. It is very difficult for a publicly owned corporation to move forward in the field that public opinion does not support. Now, the withdrawal from Afghanistan is of tremendous effect on American public opinion. For some reason or other, it has been one of the most unpopular things. Maybe it is because we know a lot about it from our own unfortunate experience in vietnam. That may be one of the reasons. Anyway, it's a phenomenon. I would say yes, it's very important that that problem is solved and I think it will have a profound and favourable effect on American public opinion and it will be reflected in the attitude of our corporate leaders and our corporate managers.

Arbatov Comments on Talks

LD161029 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1955 GMT 15 Apr 88

[From "the World Today" program; interview with Georgiy Arkadiyevich Arbatov by unidentified reporter at the ASTEC conference in Moscow]

[Text] [Reporter] Georgiy Arkadiyevich, what can a scientist engaged in studying political problems do here at the ASTEC conference among businessmen and people whose profession is trading?

[Arbatov] To be perfectly honest, I consider that it is now, primarily, a political problem. For us, this is an indication of the Americans' true intentions. If they continue to wage an economic war against us and try somehow to undermine our efforts and cause damage to us, then this shows that all their intentions are bad and that they are not sincere in what they say. So from this point of view it's a kind of indicator. But there's another enormous economic factor where we and the Americans are equally dependent, because you see, economic incentives, the new thinking and improvements in relations-...there is arms expenditure, expenditure on the arms race, which is becoming very difficult for us, and, indeed, getting beyond the U.S. capabilities as well. [sentence as heard]

This is one of the main reasons for the national debt and the trade balance deficit, and a new common interest has arisen here: In addition to averting nuclear war, a new common interest has arisen—to create the most favorable possible conditions for solving one's own problems. Both we and the Americans have plenty of such problems, and they understand this well. They are not our only partners, but both for political and economic reasons, this kind of trade would be useful to us. Of course, we can survive without it and so can they. If the two sides have proved anything at all, then it is precisely that we can survive without one another. But this is not rational for the future, and we are going to move in a different direction now. But it's wrong to link this to anything. Economic relations depend on politics—they form a part of them, of overall relations—but it's wrong to link trade and economic relations on the one hand with things that have been invented, or else with demands to change certain domestic procedures in the other country. This contradicts the basic principles of coexistence themselves.

Human rights has often been a front for attempts at foisting alien procedures on our system, at simply forcing us to copy the United States. And step by step there was an escalation of such demands. This is what they are going to have to give up.

Agreement on Nuclear Reduction Possible

LD160100 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Asked about the possibility to sign a treaty on a 50-percent reduction in strategic arms during President Reagan's visit to Moscow next month, Secretary of State George Shultz has said it's unlikely but remains a possibility. Our observer Vladislav Kozyakov has this comment:

Washington is uncertain about a new treaty because of verification problems. As Mr Shultz has said, compared with the current difficulties those encountered in drafting the INF Treaty look like child's play. But the greater are the difficulties the bigger are the efforts needed to overcome them, all the more so since an agreement concerning humanity's survival is at issue. In the meantime, it can be concluded from what is known about the negotiations that in some areas the talks have become a one-way street. Take, for instance, the debate on limiting sea-based cruise missiles. The Soviet Union has proposed a joint experiment to be held this month for the detection of nuclear weapons aboard naval vessels. The Americans could test Soviet equipment to make sure how reliable it is. This would facilitate verification procedures. However, United States representatives have hesitated and lost time and they haven't proposed anything substantial, while their Soviet counterparts have agreed to accept any comprehensive verification.

But does the crux of the matter really boil down to verification difficulties only? THE NEW YORK TIMES recalls that the United States has been not too enthusiastic about the Soviet proposal to limit sea-based cruise missiles. In this type of weaponry, the paper notes, the United States is no doubt superior; and this seems to be the reason for the difficulties.

The experience gained with the INF Treaty shows that it takes, above all, political will on the part of both sides to resolve sensitive nuclear disarmament issues. This is also borne out by the understanding reached at the Washington summit on the main points of the documents on strategic offensive arms and antiballistic missiles. Without minimizing the difficulties of verification, as far as sea-based cruise missiles or other weapons are concerned, Moscow is confident that an agreement on a 50 percent reduction in strategic arms can be signed in the near future provided both sides are guided by the principles agreed upon at the American-Soviet summit. This was said by Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on Wednesday.

Korionov Assails USIA Report on Glasnost Use

PM131145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 88 First Edition p 5

[Article by political commentator Vitaliy Korionov: "Who Needs This?"]

[Text] There are many events taking place in the world today which the USIA leadership dislikes. It dislikes them very much. To find examples, let us look at the report which the USIA sent to the Congress the other day. It is called "Active Soviet Measures in the Era of Glasnost."

It is almost universally acknowledged that the process of further democratization and glasnost begun in the Soviet Union is helping to break down the walls of enmity and distrust between the countries which were zealously built up during the cold war years and is helping to create an international atmosphere which offers the possibility of resolving in the interests of peace and the peoples the questions produced by the period of military and political confrontation.

But judging by the report in question such a course of events does not suit USIA headquarters. Even the words "glasnost" and "perestroyka" are used in quotemarks by the authors. "Current Soviet tactics in all spheres," they declare, "are based on the creation of a more open aspect and on an attempt to use the prevailing positive images in the West of the 'glasnost' and 'perestroyka' processes to the Soviets' advantage."

Why have the authors of this document lost their sense of equilibrium? Primarily, I believe, because the cour pursued by those Washington circles in their desire to find new outlets for the arms race is being rejected by the peoples with ever increasing determination.

"The active Soviet measures undertaken in the West are now based," the authors of the report state, "on the concept of creating the broadest possible 'united front' against the 'Strategic Defense Initiative,' which is also aimed at undermining the U.S. positions at the arms control talks."

Excuse me, but isn't it only the Soviet Union which opposes the "Star Wars" program, a term for the "Strategic Defense Initiative" actually coined in the United States? And is that "initiative" supported unanimously in the United States itself? Certainly not. "The aim of 'Star Wars' is not to eliminate or limit nuclear armaments but to promote an arms race unlimited in terms of cost, duration, and danger," according to the opinion of such authoritative figures as M. Bundy, G. Kennan, R. McNamara, and G. Smith. Former U.S. Defense Secretary W. Perry warns: "America's SDI program could most radically nullify all arms control agreements past, present, and future with the Soviet Union."

Many millions of people throughout the world support the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which they regard as the first practical step toward freeing mankind from its nuclear chains. However, the men from the USIA are trying to make it seem that all this is the result of... Soviet intrigues.

They see the "hand of Moscow" everywhere. They seek "pro-Soviet groups" here, there, and everywhere. They call the WPC an "international front organization." They even try to attribute to the Soviet Union the authorship of a number of world press items exposing CIA or Pentagon activity in various parts of the world.

"The Soviets," the report's authors go on to claim, "have shown initiative in organizing new international 'peace' forums and groups consisting mainly of representatives of various professions, scientists, prominent social figures, and representatives of business circles and in trying to open a new channel for influencing the Western elite." That is how powerful those Soviets are! They only have to snap their fingers and scientists, prominent social figures, and representatives of business circles gather into forums, huddle in groups, and criticize the United States. That just shows how deeply ingrained in the minds of certain U.S. circles is the age-old and contemptible anticommunist notion that Moscow covertly "inspires and directs" the activity of the broadest public strata supporting the cause of averting nuclear catastrophe! Clearly the authors of this report are not bothered by the fact that in painting such a pathetic picture totally divorced from reality they are insulting the most humanitarian and energetic section of the population of the world today.

The movement for a nuclear-free world and for the survival of mankind is broadening and gathering momentum. But such aims are anathema to certain circles across the ocean. Why else are the authors of the USIA report attacking the USSR and our mass media and falsly accusing them of a "malicious campaign of anti-American disinformation and lies." I do not think that there is any need to contest such claims. They contain nothing new. We have heard it all for many decades now.

However, there is no ignoring R. Reagan's speech at the annual convention of the National Association of Broadcasters in Las Vegas recently. The U.S. President proclaimed himself committed to the destruction of the "invisible wall" dividing the United States and the USSR—"The wall preventing the free flow of information." We are not going to dredge up the past and debate who actually erected such a "wall." In any event, the Soviet side tries to prove not only in words but also in deeds that it supports the comprehensive expansion of the reciprocal exchange of information and ideas, and that includes with Americans. The only strange thing is that the head of the U.S. Administration judges the USSR's stance on this question by the criterion of...its attitude toward the books of Solzhenitsyn. Surely Soviet people themselves know best what they should read?

Yes, it has long been time to eradicate the "enemy image," to stop the plugging of lies in relations between states, and to take a stand for reason and responsibility toward the peoples. This is particularly important now when improvements have been seen in Soviet-U.S. relations. It is now more necessary than ever before to increase the efforts aimed at mutual understanding and not to take steps which are leading the USIA in what is quite plainly the opposite direction.

Comparison of Second Edition

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 12 April in its Second Edition on page 5 carries an article by Korionov under the headline "Who Needs This?" The Second Edition PRAVDA report has been compared with the First Edition PRAVDA report published above, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph two, sentence one reads: ...countries which were built up during...(omitting "zealously")

Paragraph three, sentence one reads:...report in question USIA Headquarters think differently. Even the words-...(substituting phrase)

Paragraph four, sentence two reads...arms race is increasingly out of step with the peoples' aspirations.

The active Soviet...(rewording)

Paragraph nine, sentence four reads:...circles is the notion that Moscow...(omitting "age-old and contemptible communist")

Same paragraph, sentence five reads:...painting such a picture they are slandering the most humanitarian...(omitting "pathetic," "totally divorced from reality", substituting "slandering" for "insulting")

Paragraph ten, sentence three reads:...mass media and accusing them of...(omitting "falsely")

Same paragraph, last sentence reads:...many decades now.

In a speech to the annual convention of the National Association of Broadcasters in Las Vegas recently, the U.S. President proclaimed himself committed to the destruction of the "invisible wall" dividing the United States and the USSR—"the wall preventing the free flow of information and ideas." You can only shrug and say: Fine talk! After all, the Soviet side tries to prove not only in words but in deeds that it supports the comprehensive expansion of information and ideas, and that includes with Americans.

Yes, it has long been time to eradicate the "enemy image" and to renounce the confrontational style of polemics. This is particularly...(picking up last paragraph, supplying alternative paragraph, rewording first sentence of last paragraph).

Correction to U.S. Senate Group's Kiev Visit

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Delegation Ends Kiev Visit," published in the 15 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT on page 18, column one:

Paragraph three, first sentence:...traditional unfriendly views each side holds...(supplying dropped "views")

China

Defense Council Congratulates Deng Xiaoping

LD151845 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—The Defence Council of the Soviet Union has extended congratulations and good wishes to Deng Xiaoping on the occasion of his reelection to the post of Chairman of the Central Military Council of the People's Republic of China.

National Peoples' Congress Session Ends

PM151135 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 88 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Closure of National People's Congress Session"]

[Text] Beijing, 13 Apr—The solemn sounds of the PRC state anthem heralded the completion of the work of the first session of the Seventh Convocation of the National People's Congress [NPC]. For 20 days the deputies of the supreme organ of state power, at plenary sessions and in groups, discussed the most important questions of the country's economic, political, social, and cultural life.

The importance of the present session for China is borne out by the fact that it elected a new leadership for the state organs—the PRC president, the chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, and the chairman of the PRC

Central Military Commission—and approved the premier of the PRC State Council, members of the State Council, and ministers. There was a reorganization of the PRC State Council: The number of ministries and departments was reduced from 45 to 41 and the number of their workers will also be reduced.

The NPC session approved the report on the government's work summing up the results of the PRC State Council's activity over the past 5 years and defined the tasks for the next 5-year period and outlined ways of fulfilling them. It stresses that the implementation of reform and the pursuit of a policy of expanding ties with the outside world remain the main task.

The NPC deputies approved the first law in China's history on the industrial enterprise owned by all the people, whose draft was discussed for a long time by specialists and the public. Amendments were also adopted to the PRC Constitution legalizing the right to private enterprise in China and affecting land use rights.

During the session's work there was a broad discussion of problems of the country's economic life, in particular the question of the increase in prices in the country. The serious attention to this problem is no accident: Last year prices in the country rose by over 7 percent, prices for meat, poultry, and eggs increased 16 percent, and vegetable prices rose 17 percent.

NPC Session Reviewed

LD151348 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0930 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Kulikov from Beijing]

[Text] All Chinese newspapers are devoting leading articles to the first session of the Seventh Convocation of the National People's Congress, which has ended in Beijing. The press is calling on Chinese workers to rally together and to continue the struggle to build socialism with a specific Chinese character. Two main aspects of Chinese restructuring are being noted: The development of the socialist commodity economy and the building of socialist democracy, which received support and approval from deputies.

This session lasted 20 days in Beijing. It has become an appreciable event in the country's political life. The scale of the questions which the session laid down and resolved speaks for itself. This is first and foremost the adoption of a number of laws which are intended to play an active role in speeding up the steps of reform. You can point to the law on industrial enterprises owned by the nation, which will contribute new features to the country's economic life, which broadens the rights of enterprises and strengthens the role of the manager. There is also the law on companies, founded on the basis of Chinese and foreign cooperation to stimulate China's foreign economic ties. The session resolved the question of creating another province in China on the island of Hainan and of organizing here the Hainan special economic region. A number of clauses broaden the possibility for private enterprise in China. The cadre system is subject to serious changes. Reform of the state apparatus has begun.

But it would probably be wrong to picture the session as some kind of mechanism ascertaining successes achieved and giving them the form of corresponding state acts. The session also focused attention on problems facing the country and was not afraid to also touch painful aspects of the Chinese economy. These are first of all increases in prices, instances of red tape, corruption, and wastefulness, which Comrade Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council, called crimes at the session. The session also touched on a number of international questions, noting that China needs peaceful development and [words indistinct] the well-known optimism of the possibility of standing up for peace throughout the world. The session laid down the legal foundations for many fundamental changes in the country's economic and political life which originated in the ideas of the 13th congress.

Cultural Reform Plans

LD161041 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0830 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Kulikov from Beijing]

[Text] Among the problems discussed at the PRC National People's Congress [NPC] session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which was held parallel to it, were questions of reform in culture and art. The restructuring of China's artistic collectives is now being discussed actively on the pages of the Chinese press in the aftermath of the NPC session. There are over 3,000 professional artistic collectives in the country at present.

As Wang Jifu, PRC deputy minister of culture, believes, the forthcoming reform in this sphere will put an end to the practice which lasted for many years, whereby all artistic collectives were maintained at state expense and, as it is customarily said here, were fed out of the common pot. From now on, only an insignificant number of experimental collectives of importance for the state in general will be under the authority of the government's cultural department; the others will be turned into units of collective and individual property. Thus, in the opinion of the Ministry of Culture, it will be possible to make better use of flexible forms of management, taking into account both financial autonomy, economic efficiency, and competition. At the same time as all this, the PRC deputy minister of culture stressed, the main criterion for restructuring the management of literature and art remains the building of a socialist spiritual culture.

Mulatov on USSR, PRC Ties With Southeast Asia

OW180818 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Mulatov commentary: "Views of Moscow and Beijing on Various Questions"]

[Text] An article in RENMIN RIBAO on Tuesday [12 April] about the growing relations in various fields between the Soviet Union and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] economic community confirmed Soviet efforts to improve and develop relations with the ASEAN countries. A similar article in JINGJI CANKAO a few days ago explored even more extensively the Soviet Union's growing trade and economic relations with some countries in the Asia-Pacific region. As is known, China also attaches great importance to expanding trade, economic, and other relations with countries in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. Here is a commentary by station observer Mulatov, entitled: "Views of Moscow and Beijing on Various Questions."

For obvious reasons, the Soviet Union and China, two socialist countries, have been paying increasing attention to developing mutually beneficial economic, trade, and other cooperative relations based on peaceful coexistence with countries of ASEAN and the entire Asia-Pacific region. The Soviet Union and China each have encountered special problems with some individual countries. As RENMIN RIBAO has pointed out, the situation surrounding Cambodia for example is a factor which has been restraining some ASEAN countries' contacts with the Soviet Union, while China faces problems, caused by past discords, in establishing stable partnerships with certain countries such as Indonesia.

However, in my opinion, the crux of the problem lies not in Soviet and Chinese differences with a certain country in the region regarding some political question, be it small or big, but in the determination of the Soviet Union, China, and other socialist countries in the Asia-Pacific region to work more actively for the establishment of stable (?business) partnerships, good-neighborliness, and peaceful coexistence in the Asia-Pacific region where the interests of people of many countries intermix. The contributions of the Soviet and Chinese delegations to the Jakarta conference of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia suffice to prove my point.

I also would like to call attention to the fact that there are more similarities than differences in the Soviet and Chinese views on regional issues. As you know, political and diplomatic maneuvers are underway in the ASEAN countries for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia. It is noteworthy that among the five nuclear powers only the Soviet Union and China have expressed resolute support for the plan to set up a nuclear-free zone put forth by Indonesia and other ASEAN countries. Take, for example, another question which is very important to them: the endeavor to change, on an equal and fair basis, the economic relations with the United States, Japan, and other capitalist powers. The Soviet Union and China have unequivocally sided all along with the developing countries, supporting their struggle to establish a new international economic order and liberate themselves from the economic (?shackles) of imperialist multinational corporations. The ASEAN countries have highly evaluated the two socialist giants' active contributions to achieving these objectives. Indonesia, Malaysia, and other members of the ASEAN economic community have in recent years pursued a policy of expanding ties in various fields with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The ASEAN countries, like the Soviet Union and China, believe that equal economic partnership is an important factor for strengthening the foundations of peaceful coexistence in the region.

Northeast Asia

Japan's Uno Makes 'Provocative Trip' to Kuriles

LD171229 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0920 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, 17 Apr (TASS)—TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin reports: Sosuke Uno, the Japanese minister of foreign affairs, today carried out a so-called "inspection of the northern territories," as the southern part of the Soviet Kurile islands is called in Tokyo. During 2 hours from the deck of an escort vessel located within his territorial waters, he scrutinized through binoculars this part of the USSR that the Japanese Government claims.

During a news conference held on the vessel, the minister announced openly the nonrecognition of the borders that came about between the two countries after World War II. From S. Uno's remarks it followed that Tokyo does not intend to depart one step from its former territorial claims on the USSR, which have become a serious obstacle to the development of bilateral relations.

This is the first time in the last 5 years that a Japanese minister of foreign affairs has made such a provocative trip to the region of the Soviet Kurile islands. By doing this Tokyo has made it clear that it does not intend to renounce the policy of confrontation in the Far East despite the fact that present trends toward easing international tension, according to the television company NHK, have given rise to hopes for an improvement in relations between Japan and the USSR.

Lockheed To Supply Planes for Japanese Buildup

PM151231 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 88 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by own correspondent I. Latyshev: "They Are Arming Themselves"]

[Text] Tokyo, 13 Apr—Japanese Government circles are persistently steering a course toward the further buildup of the combat might of the "Self-Defense Forces." Here emphasis is being placed not on an increase in these forces' numerical strength but on their acquiring the most sophisticated types of combat equipment and assimilating the production of this equipment by Japanese enterprises.

The press reports that Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and Michael Mansfield, U.S. ambassador to Japan, have exchanged documents reinforcing the two countries' agreement on the supply to Japan by the U.S. Lockheed firm of licenses for the production of the sophisticated EP-3 naval reconnaissance aircraft. A number of Japanese firms including the Kawasaki Jukogyo aircraft firm will take part in the production of this aircraft, designed by U.S. engineers. It is proposed that the Mitsubishi electrical equipment firm produce a certain proportion of the equipment and instruments using Japanese plans to replace those on U.S. aircraft of this type.

The adoption of the new reconnaissance aircraft by the Japanese "naval Self-Defense Forces," specialists here explain, should "enhance the opportunities for collecting intelligence" relating to the Soviet Navy. The main aim of the EP-3 aircraft," THE JAPAN TIMES reports, "will be to detect Soviet warships and to collect and analyze other intelligence."

It is planned to begin the production of the new military aircraft under license from Lockheed in Japan this year. Some 12,400 million yen have already been earmarked for the purpose. It is planned that the first EP-3 type reconnaissance aircraft will be ready in 1990.

Japanese CP Delegation Arrives in Moscow

LD171734 Moscow TASS in English 1716 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS—A delegation of the Japan Communist Party (JCP) led by Koichiro Ueda, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the JCP Central Committee, arrived here today for consultations with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

Embassy Shows Films on Kim Il-song Birthday

SK180103 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] On the occasion of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our country's embassy in the Soviet Union arranged a film show yesterday. Smirnovskiy, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee; Chaplin, Soviet deputy minister of foreign affairs; Tarasov, first deputy chairman of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society; Proday-Voda, deputy minister of the timber, pulp and paper, and wood processing industry; (Plasov), vice chairman of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society Central Committee; and other relevant functionaries were invited. Our country's film entitled "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Gives On-the-Spot Guidance in Work in Various Sectors of the People's Economy" was shown at this show.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Rogachev Holds Consultations in Indonesia

Meets Officials

LD150648 Moscow TASS in English 1859 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Jakarta April 14 TASS—Soviet-Indonesian political consultations were held here on April 13-14, for the first time after the signing of the relevant inter-governmental protocol in Moscow in February. Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR Igor Rogachev conversed with Foreign Minister of Indonesia Ali Alatas and also General Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Sudharmono and other representatives of the Foreign Ministry.

A broad range of questions of bilateral cooperation was considered. Similarity and coincidence of the (?stands) of both countries was noted on a number of key international problems. The unanimous opinion was expressed on the exclusive importance of signing the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan for improvement of the international situation and settlement of conflict situations in other regions of the world.

Speaks to Press

BK140252 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0152 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Jakarta, April 14 (ANTARA/OANA)—Indonesia and the Soviet Union share the same view on the need to facilitate dialogues between Hun Sen and Sihanouk in the effort to settle the Kampuchean problem, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev has stated.

Speaking at a press conference here Wednesday [13 April] evening, Rogachev said further he made the conclusion after having talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas here Wednesday afternoon.

The Soviet Union gives priority to all regional issues and hopes for the solution of all conflicts as soon as possible, he stated.

He refused to answer when asked about the amount of Soviet assistance to Vietnam, which has invaded Kampuchea since the beginning of 1979. In reply to the question, he only said that the Soviet Union has given economic assistance to Vietnam. Similar assistance has also been given to the Afghanistan Government, he added.

"We have to give them assistance in the economic field. Why do you think of military assistance?" he said in reply to a question about the U.S. appeal to the Soviet Union to stop the supply of military equipment to Kabul.

During the talks, Alatas and Rogachev gave bigger attention to the existing tension in the Asian and Pacific region.

Indonesia, according to Rogachev, is interested in lowering the level of military confrontation in the region in seeking solution to conflicts that still occur and in preventing new conflicts. Concerning the planned visit of President Suharto to the Soviet Union at the invitation of Mikhail Gorbachev, Rogachev said it is still waiting for the confirmation of the Indonesian side.

He will Nana Sutresna, director general of political affairs of the Indonesian Foreign Department, Thursday. [sentence as received] "If confirmation is given during the talks, we shall report it to Moscow," he said.

Touching on bilateral trade, he said both sides have agreed to explore the possibility of promoting two-way trade between the two countries.

Indonesia and the Soviet Union have also agreed to take steps for holding a meeting of the Indonesian-Soviet Commission on Economic and Trade Cooperation.

Views ESCAP Role

BK130936 Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev has said that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP, plays an important role in promoting peaceful cooperation among all interested countries of Asia and the Pacific. Speaking in Jakarta before the second day plenary meeting of the 44th annual session of ESCAP, convening from April 11th to 20th, he further said that while the commission's contribution to solving the problem of social and economic development of the countries of Asia and the Pacific is highly appreciated. [sentence as heard]

Afghanistan, Cambodia Remarks

BK151331 Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Bangkok, April 15 (AFP)—The political settlement reached in Afghanistan could serve as a guide for peace in Cambodia, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said here Friday.

"We are sure that the experience over prolonged talks on the Afghan problem will help countries involved in other conflict situations," he told diplomats and reporters at a press conference in the Thai Foreign Ministry.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said in Bangkok in March 1987 that the Afghan peace process might offer a model for resolving the Cambodian conflict, observers noted.

"The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan will help to find solutions in other regional conflicts, and we hope that it relates to the Kampuchean (Cambodian) situation," Mr. Rogachev said.

"You cannot find two regional conflict situations which are absolutely of the same character, same nature, but at the same time there are similarities in any of them."

The United States and the Soviet Union signed an accord on Thursday to end the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and allow Moscow to start pulling out its 115,000 troops on May 15.

Soviet-backed Vietnam has occupied Cambodia since toppling the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge government in 1979. Hanoi's estimated 140,000 troops there are fighting a 50,000-strong guerrilla resistance armed by China but also supported diplomatically by non-communist Southeast Asia and the West.

China has cited the Afghanistan and Cambodian conflicts, plus the heavy Soviet troop presence on the Chinese border, as the three major obstacles to normalising Sino-Soviet ties. Mr. Rogachev, who heads the Soviet delegation in border talks with China, said progress was being made.

Vietnam had promised to withdraw its troops from Cambodia by 1990 and "perhaps the process will be speeded up by some other positive developments which we now cannot predict. Let us be patient and try to accelerate the process of political settlement," Mr. Rogachev added.

But at the same time he pointed out: "It is wrong to say that the Soviet Union can impose any demand on Hanoi. Vietnam is a sovereign country. No one can dictate his will to this government."

Former Thai Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman said after Mr. Rogachev made his remarks: "The Soviet Union being the elder brother and Vietnam the younger brother, the older brother can always find a way to twist his younger brother's arm."

Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon is scheduled to visit Moscow next month. And Mr. Rogachev said Cambodia was sure to be discussed during his trip.

He added that later this month he was to meet U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Gaston Sigur to discuss Asian-Pacific affairs ahead of the summit meeting between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

He said Cambodia would be on the summit agenda and "Mr. Sigur and myself will do our best in order to help them come to some agreement on this point."

Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Sarot Chawanawirat said here Friday that there had been changes in Soviet foreign policy toward Cambodia since Mr. Gorbachev's landmark Vladivostock speech in 1986 about better East-West relations in Asia.

Moscow had shifted its position from non-interference to accepting that the Cambodian conflict should be resolved through peaceful negotiations and supporting Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk's talks with Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen, Mr. Sarot said.

Mr. Rogachev, who arrived here Thursday on a four-day visit, met Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawestsila Friday, briefing him on the Afghanistan peace accord signed Thursday in Geneva.

Further on Comments

BK150111 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said last night's agreement on Afghanistan will have a "positive impact" on the Kampuchean problem, and described Premier Prem Tinsulanon's planned visit to Moscow as "very important" for the Thai-Soviet relations.

The Soviet Union, United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan signed an agreement at Geneva setting up the withdrawal of 115,000 Soviet occupation troops from Afghanistan within nine months.

"It's good news for everybody, for all countries, especially (those) in the Asia and Pacific region. It will have a very positive impact in the area and on (efforts to solve) other regional conflicts," he said.

"It's not good only for the (Kampuchean) problem, but for other international problems," he added.

Rogachev arrived in Bangkok last night for the last leg of his Southeast Asia visit. He will meet Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila today and Premier Prem Tinsulanon on Monday.

He was greeted at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Sarot Chawanawirat said earlier that the agreement leading to a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan can hardly be seen as leading to a similar solution to the Kampuchean problem, because the situations in the two countries are different.

Sarot said yesterday that Thailand welcomes the Afghan agreement.

But Thailand understands that the peace pact does not mean an end to the fighting, because both the Soviet Union and the United States still retain the right to supply weapons to both the pro-Soviet Najibullah government in Kabul and the pro-American mujahidin resistance fighters, he said.

Moreover, when the superpowers could not agree to cease the arms support, a government of national reconciliation could not be set up as earlier proposed by Pakistan, Sarot said.

The agreement was reached after concerned parties, as well as the United Nations, tried to resolve the conflict, Sarot said, adding that the pact will bring back peace to the region, and that Thailand will support the UN and Pakistani resolution until it reaches the final settlement.

Unlike the Kampuchean problem, the Soviet Union was directly involved in the Afghan conflicts, which actually became an East-West issue and was settled through the UN mechanism.

Suharto, USSR Presidium Exchange Telegrams

LD161043 Moscow TASS in English 0948 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has sent a message of congratulations to Suharto on the occasion of his being re-elected president of the Republic of Indonesia. It expresses, in part, the hope that the ties between the Soviet Union and Indonesia, which are gaining in strength, and the two countries' increasingly closer interation in tackling the key problems of our time will continue to serve the interests of the two countries' peoples, greater security and cooperation in Asia and all over the world.

In his reply telegram, Indonesian President Suharto expressed gratitude for the congratulations and good wishes. He said he desired to exert further efforts to strengthen friendly relations between the two countries and peoples.

Australia's Hayden Denies Soviet Pacific Buildup

PM151051 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 88 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Minister Issues Denial"]

[Text] Manila, 13 Apr—William Hayden, Australian minister of foreign affairs and trade, who is in the Philippines on an official visit, has denied recent claims by a number of U.S. officials regarding the allegedly increased Soviet military presence in the Asian and Pacific region. The Australian Government, he told journalists after meeting with President Corazon

Aquino, is convinced that the Soviet Union has reduced its ships' presence in the region by approximately 50 percent in the past year. We do not see any threat from the USSR, the minister said. Soviet ships in the Southwest Pacific are engaged exclusively in fishing.

At the same time W. Hayden came out in defense of the U.S. military presence in the Philippines, noting that U.S. military bases create an atmosphere of "security and stability" in the Asian and Pacific region.

Vietnam Objects to PRC Decision on Islands

LD160232 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Hanoi April 15 TASS—The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in connection with the decision by the 1st session of China's National People's Congress to include the Paracel and Spratly Islands in the newly established province of Hainan, saying that the islands were part of Vietnamese territory.

The statement described China's actions as contradicting the trend towards the solution of outstanding international problems by way of dialogue.

The Foreign Ministry statement stressed that the Government of Vietnam consistently pursued a course towards a peaceful settlement of differences between the two countries with regard to these islands and believed that the sides, prior to the start of negotiations, should refrain from steps that could worsen the situation.

Cambodia Planning New Hun Sen-Sihanouk Meeting

OW150603 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1020 GMT 13 Apr 88

[From the "World Today" program, presented by Valentin Dvinin]

[Excerpts] According to the Khmer calendar, the traditional New Year holiday is being observed in Cambodia today, 13 April. [passage omitted] By popular belief this is the time for bountiful rains that will yield a rich harvest.

But the country's people also link their New Year's wishes with further efforts to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem. Our correspondent in Phnom Penh, Yevgeniy Kochanov, reports that active work is presently underway at official levels to organize a new meeting between Hun Sen, prime minister of the PRK, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Two previous meetings, as you know, made a certain contribution to the positive development of this process, which of course promotes improvement in the general situation throughout the Southeast Asian region.

Briefs

Medal for Lao Envoy—The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has awarded Thongsavat Khaikhamphitoun, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Laos to the USSR, the Order of the Friendship of the Peoples for his active work on strengthening friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. [Text] [*LD170150 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Apr 88*]

Near East & South Asia

Developments Around Gulf War Zone Reported

Events of 12 Apr

PM131123 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS reports under the general heading "Exchange of Strikes"]

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr—Iraq launched a missile against Tabriz this morning, an official military spokesman has reported. On Monday the Iraqis fired two missiles at Tehran and one at Esfahan.

Iraqi Air Force places and helicopters, a report from the main military command states, carried out 320 combat sorties in the last 24 hours. Missile strikes and bombing raids were carried out.

Iranian long-range artillery, the report notes, continued to shell Basra, Khanaqin, and other Iraqi border population centers. Civilians have been killed and wounded.

The Iraqi military spokesman told the INA Agency that the night offensive by Iranian troops on the northern section of the front was repulsed. The Iranian troops had lost around 2,000 men killed or wounded. Many prisoners had been taken.

Nicosia, 12 Apr—IRNA reported that Iranian troops last night carried out an offensive in the northern section of the front. They crossed the international Iran-Iraq border in the vicinity of the town of Panjwin and seized six strategically important hills. During the fighting more than 2,000 Iraqi servicemen were killed or wounded.

Brigadier General M.H. Jalali, Iranian defense minister, stated that the Iranian military industry had started mass producing two types of "surface-to-surface" missiles. According to an IRNA report, Iran yesterday fired two missiles at military targets in Baghdad. An Iraqi missile strike on Tehran and Esfahan killed at least 20 people and wounded dozens.

London, 12 Apr—High-speed launches attacked a tanker sailing under the Saudi flag near the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz this afternoon. REUTERS reports that the attack caused a fire on board, which was successfully put out. REUTERS believes that the launches which carried out the attack belong to Iran.

Ankara, 12 Apr—The local press reports that Turkish airspace in the region of southeastern Anatolia has been closed to Iranian and Iraqi planes. They will be fired on in the event of violations.

Western Nations Send Arms

LD150453 Moscow TASS in English 1609 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 14 TASS—TASS correspondent Andrey Chytov reports:

Weapons keeping the flames of the Persian Gulf conflict alive flow to the Middle East from the USA, the Netherlands, Italy and the FRG. In West Germany alone investigations are under way into activities of about a dozen of corporations engaged in such supplies, American journalist Bob Zelnik told TASS. He conducted his own investigation of "arms paths" to the warring sides after the recent barbaric incident with the use of chemical weapons against civil population in an Iraqi village captured by Iran. This is also corroborated by a March report of the newspaper "CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR" which mentions an interception of a batch of chemical weapons during an attempt to ship them to Iran from the USA.

The exposure of the West's complicity in the Iraqi tragedy put the U.S. Administration into an extremely awkward situation. Washington stands out formally for imposing an embargo on arms sales to the warring sides, but in real fact it and its allies permit actually an unrestricted flow of the most lethal weapons to the area of combat operations through "private" channels. Naturally, they are falling over themselves to conceal the truth about their role in the conflict. It is not by chance that after the raid on the Iraqi village, the U.S. mass media circulated a version on the use in this operation of one of the simplest types of chemical weapons which could be manufactured by any warring side without the West's aid. When Zelnik refuted these allegations, U.S. officials insistently recommended that he review the results of his investigation in a way suitable to the administration.

Keeping the flames of the Persian Gulf conflict alive, the USA uses them as a pretext for preserving its naval flotilla nearby and seeks to play on fears of the neighbours of Iran and Iraq so as to get military bases in the region. Incidentally, to conceal its real intentions, Washington likes to harangue on its "neutrality" and even to don the robes of a peace-maker.

U.S. Detonates Mine 15 Apr

LD160605 Moscow TASS in English 0548 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] London April 16 TASS—American minesweeping craft spotted and detonated Friday three seabed mines in the southern part of the Persian Gulf east of Bahrain. Reporting about this with reference to U.S. Defence Department officials, Reuters recalls that a day earlier a U.S. destroyer was damaged by an underwater explosion in the Persian Gulf. Several people were injured as a result of the blast.

The officials said that so far it was unclear who planted the mines in the area where nothing was found during earlier minesweeping operations.

U.S. Ships Shell Iranian Platforms

LD181035 Moscow TASS in English 1017 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] London April 18 TASS—U.S. naval vessels today attacked two Iranian oil platforms, Nasr and Salman, 140 kilometres northwest of the coast of Abu Dhabi in the Persian Gulf.

The attack caused a fire on the platforms. Reuters reported that on approaching the oil platforms the American warships warned the personnel to leave the platforms within 45 seconds and then opened fire.

According to news agencies, serious damage was inflicted to the platforms. They also quote a White House spokesman as reaffirming today that the American naval vessels delivered a strike at two Iranian oil platforms.

According to the Iranian News Agency IRNA, the attack followed after the American Administration's statements that it would take steps against Iran in reply to its mining of the Persian Gulf.

Late last week the frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts hit a sea mine off the Iranian coast. Ten members of its crew were wounded in the explosion.

U.S. Attacks Iranian Troops

LD181058 Moscow TASS in English 1037 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Nicosia April 18 TASS—U.S. combat helicopters today attacked Iranian troop positions in the occupied Iraqi Al-Faw peninsula several times.

Tehran radio reported that the helicopters had turned back after encountering fire from the Iranian forces.

Iranians Attack UK Tanker

LD181211 Moscow TASS in English 1125 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Paris April 18 TASS—Iranian speedboats today attacked the British tanker York Marine off the oil terminal in the Mubarak oilfield, owned by the United Arab Emirates, in the Persian Gulf. The FRANCE PRESSE NEWS AGENCY quoted the British insurance company Lloyds as saying that the vessel had been damaged.

The news of the attack came after the British Government had voiced its support for the U.S. Navy actions which shelled two Iranian oil platforms in the Gulf today.

According to the spokesmen of shipping companies in Dubayy, the Iranian Navy made an attack on the Mubarak oilfield, developed by American companies in response to the U.S. actions.

Iranian Boats Attack U.S. Ship

LD181358 Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 18 TASS—An anxiliary ship flying the U.S. flag was attacked today in the southern part of the Persian Gulf in the area of oil fields, off the coast of the Sharjah Emirate. The attack was staged by Iranian motor boats that had earlier attacked in the same area a tanker flying the British flag and had fired at an oil platform and a fuel storage, the AP News Agency reports. Under an agreement with the United Arab Emirates, American specialists are working at the platform.

According to AP, a spokesman for the Washington Administration stated that the ship flying the U.S. flag had been attacked by three Iranian motor boats.

Iranian Ship Attacks UAE Platform

LD181359 Moscow TASS in English 1331 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] London April 18 TASS—An Iranian warship attacked an oil platform of the United Arab Emirates in the Persian Gulf today.

The platform is situated on the Mubarak oilfield where oil is extracted by the United States' companies, Reuters reported.

The Iranian attack followed the shelling by U.S. warships of two Iranian oilfields.

U.S. Planes Fire at Iranian Frigate

LD181543 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 18 TASS—Two U.S. fighters pounded with missiles an Iranian frigate in the Persian Gulf, leaving the boat ablaze, UPI News Agency reported quoting Pentagon spokesmen.

The Iranian frigate was attacked several hours after U.S. Navy ships shelled two Iranian oil rigs.

Carlucci Reports Actions

LD181559 Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 18 TASS—U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci reported today that a U.S. frigate had fired at and had sunk an Iranian patrol boat during an exchange of fire, when U.S. naval ships had attacked two Iranian oil platforms in the southern part of the Persian Gulf. Speaking at an urgently held press conference, Carlucci said that Iranians had fired a Harpoon missile at the U.S. Wainwright cruiser that had taken part in the attack on the platforms. However, the missile had not reached the target. In retaliation the Sampson frigate had dealt a missile blow at the Iranian boat and had hit the target. According to the U.S. defense secretary, the Iranian boat had sunk while U.S. naval ships had not been damaged.

Earlier Marlin Fitzwater, White House spokesman, said that an order to U.S. naval ships to attack Iranian oil platforms had been issued by President Reagan in response to the incident with the U.S. Samuel Roberts Frigate last Thursday that had nearly sunk as a result of a mine explosion and ten of its crew members had been wounded.

William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at the press conference that U.S. naval ships had fired missiles at two Iranian fighter planes that had tried to approach them during the attack of the U.S. ships on the oil platforms. It was announced at the press conference that after the shelling U.S. Marines had landed on the platforms from the ships and had planted explosives there for a "total destruction". The U.S. defense secretary said that, in their opinion, they had fulfilled the order of the President.

Further Reportage on Afghan-Pakistan Accords

Shevardnadze 'Statement'

PM161814 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

["Statement by USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze After the Signing of the Geneva Agreements"—PRAVDA headline; no further details given]

[Text] In noting with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the Geneva diplomatic process, we pay tribute to the realism and responsibility shown by all its participants.

The agreements signed in Geneva provide a solution to the external aspects of a political settlement relating to Afghanistan. The agreements lay down the principle of noninterference in absolutely clear provisions imposing specific and clearly defined obligations on all sides.

The documents that come into force today do not permit support for political or other groupings operating on the territory of one of the contracting parties against the government of the other contracting party. The Soviet Union will observe in full the obligations envisaged by the Geneva agreements, and it will fulfill its treaty obligations toward Afghanistan. The Soviet side will also give assistance in resolving the refugee problem and in contributing to Afghanistan's economic recovery and development.

The Soviet side is convinced that the rights and obligations of the parties to the Geneva agreements, including the USSR and the United States as guarantors, are clear from the text of those agreements. It takes upon itself the corresponding obligations as a guarantor of the agreements. The viability of those agreements will ultimately depend on their precise observance by the parties themselves—Afghanistan and Pakistan.

We would like to mention especially the contribution made by the United Nations, its Secretary General Sr Perez de Cuellar, and the secretary general's special representative Sr D. Cordovez to the achievement of the understandings signed here in Geneva.

Shevardnadze, Wakil Meet in Moscow

PM181249 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

["Ministers Meet"—TASS Report]

[Text] A meeting took place on 16 April between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and 'Abdul Wakil, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan. He is in Moscow on his way from Geneva to Kabul.

A high evaluation was given in the conversation to the agreements signed in Geneva which, by creating a basis in international law for an end to outside intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan, are placing the cause of an Afghan settlement onto a qualititively new level and giving an impetus to the further progress of the process of national reconciliation in the country.

The signing of the Geneva agreements—which, as Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee remarked, is no less important for its international consequences than the INF Treaty—is being welcomed by all who hold dear the cause of peace. They have been welcomed with satisfaction by the Afghans, who are firmly convinced that these agreements are laying down a path toward peace on Afghan soil. Against this background, the irresponsible declarations by individual political figures, striving to play down the importance of the Geneva agreements, strike a sharply dissonant note. These figures, in actual fact, are as one with those representatives of the so-called Alliance of Seven, who are also coming out against the understandings reached in Geneva.

During the conversation, 'Abdul Wakil stressed that the Afghan Government intends to fulfill strictly the obligations it takes upon itself according to the Geneva agreements and expressed the hope that the other side would adhere to the same approach.

The sides noted that the Geneva agreements became the first specific results of the introduction of the principles of the new political thinking into the area of settling regional conflicts, thereby contributing to further enhancing the prestige of the Republic of Afghanistan in the international arena.

The ministers continued to discuss prospects for the development of bilateral relations and cooperation in various areas within the context of the join Soviet-Afghan statement in Tashkent. The Soviet side emphasized its readiness to strengthen and expand comprehensive cooperation with Afghanistan, including the restoration of the national economy and the creation of the required conditions for the return to their homeland of Afghan refugees temporarily residing in the territories of Pakistan, Iran, and other countries. In this connection, the sides spoke in favor of establishing broad international interaction to assist Afghanistan's economic and social development and heal the wounds inflicted on this country by the long conflict.

A number of other issues related to bilateral cooperation and also some international problems were discussed at the meeting.

The meeting passed in a friendly and business-like atmosphere.

Wakil Returns to Kabul

LD181022 Moscow TASS in English 0826 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 18 TASS—Foreign Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan 'Abdul Wakil returned to Kabul today, following the signing of the Geneva agreements.

In Geneva we have signed the agreements which are of very great significance to Afghanistan, for the cause of peace in our region and the whole world, said Afghanistan's foreign minister in a TASS interview. The documents will provide the foundation for establishing peace and security in our country, he said.

Comments by Wakil

LD151207 Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 15 Apr 88

[text] Kabul April 15 TASS—The presence of U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar at the signing of the Geneva accords testifies to the great attention paid by the world community to the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil told Afghan journalists in a telephone interview from Geneva. He noted the importance of compliance with all agreements reached, stressing that Afghan-Pakistani relations would be based on the principles of mutual respect, friendship and recognition of the territorial integrity.

"We have witnessed a great historic event," said Manukay Mangal, chief of the Political Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of Afghanistan. The signing of the Geneva accords, he said, would mark a pivotal moment in the life of every Afghan and open a new page in the history of the country.

Vorontsov Receives Pakistan Envoy

LD161000 Moscow TASS in English 0946 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, today received Shahid Mohammad Amin, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the USSR, who handed over a message by Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev in conjunction with the signing of the agreements on settling the situation around Afghanistan in Geneva.

During the talk the sides noted an historic importance of these agreements to ensuring lasting peace in South and South-West Asia and ending the involved military-political regional conflict. The Soviet side emphasized the importance of scrupulous compliance with the Geneva agreements by all parties.

They also discussed some matters of Soviet-Pakistani relations.

Commentary on Afghan Future

PM181449 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 4, 5

[Stanislav Kondrashov "Political Observer's Opinion": "Afghanistan After Geneva"; words between slantlines are double-spaced for emphasis in the original]

[Text] Unquestionably, last Thursday, 14 April, was a historic day. Agreements for a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan were signed in Geneva. M.S. Gorbachev has said that in terms of its international consequences, this event is probably no less important than the treaty on the elimination of Soviet and American intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles. I dare to add: In terms of its emotional content, this event is probably more important for our people than even the Washington treaty. Fulfilling their military duty, Soviet servicemen have fought and shed blood in Afghanistan for more than 8 years, and during these years there was no issue in the international arena which was closer to our people's hearts. April 14 marks a treaty-based beginning of the end for which our people were waiting with mounting impatience.

The withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan will begin on 15 May when the Geneva accords come into force. It will be completed within 9 months, that is, no later than 15 February 1989. Half of the servicemen are to be withdrawn within the first 3 months following 15 May.

This historic event makes it necessary to briefly recall what went before. The 1978 April Revolution was carried out by the PDPA, which announced a program of profound socioeconomic transformations for which the country was not ready, as emerged later. An internal struggle broke out which was exacerbated by the lack of unity within the PDPA and by outside assistance to the armed opponents of the revolution. In late December 1979, in response to repeated requests from the DRA Government to provide assistance in rebutting the armed interference from outside, the USSR sent a contingent of its forces into Afghan territory.

Our leadership at the time could scarcely have foreseen that this decision would mean involvement in the longest military conflict of the entire 7 decades of Soviet power. Going in proved easier than pulling out. So all the more important is the success of the new thinking, of the new approach achieved in Geneva, which called for considerable political persistence, patience, courage, and last but not least, a sense of responsibility vis-a-vis our people and the Afghan people. The qualities of a purposeful pursuit of a political settlement at the earliest possible date had to be demonstrated by Moscow and Kabul also during the past 2 months (after the well-known statements of 8 February) when Washington and Islamabad placed new obstacles in the path of the signing of the agreements which were virtually ready.

The "Geneva package" concerns the political settlement of the situation /around/ Afghanistan. The documents signed Thursday make no provision for a settlement /inside/ the country. An armed struggle of the rival forces continues in Afghanistan.

The Afghan leadership, headed by President Najibullah, is implementing a policy of national reconciliation in an effort to overcome in practice the damage done to the character of Afghan society, as shaped by history, and to rectify the leftist and sectarian distortions and bias which occurred immediately after the 1978 April Revolution. The traditional place of Islam as the "sacred religion" of the Afghan people has been restored. In international terms, Afghanistan sees itself as an independent, nonaligned, neutral state which pursues a line toward good-neighborliness and cooperation with all neighboring states—the USSR, the PRC, India, Pakistan, and Iran. Its internal system presupposes a combination of a multiparty system in the political sphere and a multisector system in the economic sphere. All this provides a broad basis for the policy of national reconciliation.

The joint statement by M.S. Gorbachev and Najibullah, published after their meeting in Tashkent, states that this policy makes it possible to end the war and fratricide, establish peace throughout the territory of Afghanistan, and form a coalition government with the participation of all forces which represent Afghan society, including forces which currently oppose each other.

We are aware that there have been certain changes for the better. Some refugees have returned, but, alas, their number is insignificant (there are some 3 million of them on the territory of Pakistan alone). A number of influential Afghans who opposed the government have laid down their arms and joined in the administration of the country at various levels. However, the main forces of the armed opposition, operating from Pakistani territory and represented by the "Alliance of Seven," are categorically opposed to a reconciliation with the "communists", and have rejected Kabul's invitation to become part of the coalition government. They have not laid down their arms, nor have they any intention of doing so.

The general view is that the alliance is torn by internal strife and rivalry which, clearly, are likely to intensify. Nonetheless, on one point the leaders of the alliance have so far displayed unanimity—their rejection of the Geneva agreements. Speaking on their behalf, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the new leader of the alliance, has declared that the mujahidin reject any agreement which does not provide for the "replacement of the Kabul regime" and accept no obligations relating to a ceasefire. According to Western news agency reports, they are hatching the idea of setting up their own "government" somewhere on Afghan territory since the Geneva agreement on the principles of mutual relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan prohibits their operations from the territory of Pakistan.

And so the "Geneva package" is not all-embracing. The documents which make it up create the conditions for the elimination of the regional conflict, but do not signify the end of the civil war and do not guarantee national reconciliation under the umbrella of a coalition government representing all of society's strata and groupings. The Afghans themselves will have to resolve the fundamental questions of the future existence of their state, in which the features of a feudal-tribal system are still clearly discernible. And they will have to do it alone. This, frankly speaking, is as it should be.

Agreement has been reached in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan and between the USSR and the United States, which are acting as international guarantors. They have reached agreement thanks to the mediation of Diego Cordovez, personal representative of the UN secretary general, who (let us give him his due) has accomplished a true diplomatic feat of persistence and long-suffering over a period of 6 years. Diego Cordovez is now prepared to accept a new burden: to help, as a private individual, to establish a dialogue between the warring parties and to set up a coalition government. Will it be possible to unravel this knot by peaceful means? Let's wait and see.

And finally, let me mention another aspect. The Geneva agreements would not have been possible without the improved atmosphere in the Soviet-American dialogue, which included the discussion of regional conflicts. This dialogue is bearing fruit. The Washington treaty was one example. And now another fruit has ripened, although it is not without blemish.

While acting as guarantors of the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, the two powers continue to back rival factions inside that country. We are connected with the Afghan Government and Washington with the armed opposition. The Geneva documents rule out any interference by Pakistan and Afghanistan in each other's affairs. However, they do not touch on the question of arms deliveries by the two guarantors. Thus, reading between the lines, Washington has reserved the right for itself to render military aid to its proteges. Here are President Reagan's words: "There is nothing in that agreement which would prevent us from continuing our deliveries to the mujahidin as long as they need them, as long as the Soviet Union continues to supply the Afghan forces.... This means there are no restrictions as far as we are concerned."

The Americans describe this as "positive symmetry": If the Soviet Union, having pulled out its forces, continues to provide Kabul with aid in the form of arms and equipment, the United States will act likewise in respect of its clients. If Moscow refrains from giving such aid, the Americans will respond "symmetrically."

As distinct from the Afghan rebels, Washington has accepted and signed the Geneva agreements. In concert with the rebels, it favors the encouragement and continuation of the bloody intestine strife. And as for symmetry, it is enough to look at a map. In what way could the geographical location of the USSR and the United States in respect of Afghanistan be described as symmetrical? It is also worth taking a look at history, which testifies to treaty-based relations between Soviet Russia and Afghanistan dating back to 1921. Here, too, no symmetry is to be found.

E.A. Shevardnadze said at the press conference in Geneva: "The cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan is lawful since it has a corresponding legal treaty basis. The United States has no such treaty basis. There is no legal basis for the arms deliveries to the formations and groupings which are waging an armed struggle against the legitimate government of Afghanistan."

History itself, backed up by geography, has pronounced a negative verdict in respect of "positive symmetry." However, this unsolved problem testifies to the fact that the Geneva guarantors remain, as before, on opposite sides of the barricade. It would be unrealistic to expect the approaches of the two powers to the Afghan problem to coincide. Let us console ourselves with the fact that diplomacy is the art of the feasible. Let us console ourselves with the fact that despite the mentioned reservations, there is evidence of new positive shifts in Soviet-American relations. Apart from all else, they are conducive to creating a favorable atmosphere in preparation for the Soviet-American summit scheduled for the end of May.

Summing up, it is possible to say that important steps in the right direction were taken in Geneva. It was confirmed in practice that political settlement is the main avenue to the solution of regional conflicts. However, this does not yet mean the beginning of a peaceful life for the Afghan people, who have suffered so much. The crucial question remains: What next?

U.S. Aid for Rebels Criticized

LD151752 Moscow TASS in English 1708 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—By TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov:

The Geneva agreements on a political settlement relating to Afghanistan are in the focus of international attention.

Prominent politicians, community leaders and the press in different countries agree that the "Geneva package" clears the way to peace in long-suffering Afghanistan and is vivid proof that given good will and a constructive attitude, even the most protracted and painful regional conflicts can be settled.

The "package" is being commented on in Washington as well, though in a special Washingtonian style. U.S. Administration officials in a number of statements have emphasized not so much the very circumstance of the foreign policy aspects of the problem being settled as the fact that even if it has agreed to be one of the accords' guarantors, it intends to continue actively giving military "aid" to anti-government groups that reject these agreements and are opposed to the national reconciliation policy pursued by the republic of Afghanistan.

What can be said on this score?

Everyone carefully reading the documents signed in Geneva can see for oneself that Afghanistan and Pakistan have made legal commitments ruling out any form of interference in each other's affairs, by pledging in one of the agreements to refrain from any form of interference, overt or covert, from any act of military, political or economic interference, and from the promotion, encouragement or support of rebellious or secessionist activities and to prevent within their territories the training, equipping, financing and recruitment of mercenaries from whatever origin, etc.

This makes it clear that if Afghanistan and Pakistan observe the principles inherent in the Geneva agreements, restoring peace in Afghanistan will be a realistic undertaking and U.S. arms supplies to groups fighting against the lawful Afghan government won't have decisive significance.

Seeking to justify the policy of backing the so-called "intransigent" that would like to blow up the "Geneva package" right away, in Washington they are continuing attempts to link the issue of ending aid to armed opposition groups with nothing other than the termination of traditional Soviet help to the sovereign Afghan state.

The architects of this posture call it a "problem of symmetry". But doesn't this "symmetry", whereby a sovereign nation—the Republic of Afghanistan—is as good as equated with armed opposition forces, look strange?

The cooperation of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan is maintained on a legal basis: It rests on relevant treaties. The United States, by contrast, has no legal basis in the form of treaties to supply weapons to groups waging the armed struggle against the lawful Government of Afghanistan.

The matter of Soviet help to the neighboring friendly country, as a matter of fact, was not even the subject of the Geneva talks and the continuing manipulation of this issue can hardly be seen as anything other than an attempt at interfering in bilateral Afghan-Soviet relations.

This is how things stand with the Afghanistan problem. If one looks at statements by U.S. officials about the intention to continue military aid to the anti-government groups in a broader context, one has to state that Washington is effectively reaffirming its course of neoglobalism and the policy of exporting counter-revolution, the same policy that has provoked most dangerous conflicts in the Middle East, Central America, Africa and other regions, the same policy that has brought Washington itself the Irangate scandal which has demonstrated so graphically both the expansionist goals of the "neo-globalists" seeking to establish the order of things suiting Washington wherever possible and the illegal, sordid methods used by them.

Now that the chain of regional conflicts has been ruptured, it is vital to go further and put out fires whenever they erupt. As Mikhail Gorbachev stressed in his statement on Afghanistan: "The states and peoples have enough responsibility, political will and determination to do away with all the regional conflicts over several years. This is an objective worth working for."

Ziaul Haq Stand Condemned

LD151854 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—By TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov:

People committed to peace have welcomed the signing of the Geneva agreements on the settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan, which have put an end to outside interference in that country's affairs, enable the Afghan people to establish peace and tranquility on their soil and create conditions for the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

It would seem that all countries involved in the conflict should now display maximum responsibility and adopt all necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of the agreements, avert an outbreak of hostilities and thus facilitate the earliest termination of the fratricidal war.

What do we see? President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan declared that his country was prepared to support the rebels in attaining their objectives of changing the regime in Kabul.

The president explained, to leave no doubts as to the stance of the Pakistani ruling circles, that the rebels did not recognise the Geneva accords and, therefore, he predicted the continuation of the war in Afghanistan until the overthrow of the Kabul Government.

As to Islamabad, he reiterated, it would give them support.

Hardly had the ink dried up on the Geneva documents obliging the high contracting parties to ensure that their territories are not used for hostile actions against each other, when the Pakistani president expressed readiness to help the rebels in their fight to overthrow the Kabul Government, not in the least caring that this might be the worse for Pakistan.

He observed that American military aid to insurgent units would follow the old routes, that is via Pakistan. The Americans would not air-drop weapons, he explained as if to justify his stand, while Islamabad would have neither strength nor money to seal off the Afghan-Pakistani border to prevent the movement of hostile groups crossing into Afghanistan.

This approach to the solution of one of the most complicated conflicts is hardly acceptable. The Pakistani president bears immense responsibility. It depends to a great extent on him how soon agreement will be reached and peace and tranquility established on Afghan soil. As to his statement of support for the forces fighting to oust the legitimate government in Kabul, it is irresponsible, to say the least.

Official on Pakistani View

LD152300 Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—"The signing in Geneva of documents on a political settlement of the Afghanistan-related situation gives a historic chance to lay a solid foundation of future peaceful, goodneighbourly relations in that region. Now much depends on how accurately the Pakistani authorities will meet their obligations," Andrey Fialkovskiy, head of the South Asian Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said today in a TASS interview.

It is necessary that all the parties concerned display a responsible attitude to the agreements reached and observe them strictly and unswervingly. In this setting a special role is assigned to Pakistan of whose territory an undeclared war Afghanistan has been waged for about ten years and where most of the opponents of the revolution of April 1978 found shelter.

"Soviet-Pakistani relations perceptibly deteriorated late in 1979. Islamabad is the only one who was to blame for it. It is the Islamabad authorities that decided that the personnel of the USSR embassy and other Soviet institutions in Pakistan should be reduced, that bilateral cultural and scientific cooperation should be curtailed. Provocations against Soviet citizens were staged on more than one occasion, an open anti-Soviet propaganda campaign has been going on there practically without interruption, trade and economic relations were perceptibly curtailed.

"Explaining those unfriendly actions with regard to the Soviet Union, the Pakistani leadership put forward as the main reason for it a so-called 'occupation of Afghanistan by the USSR' and asserted that it was hatching plans of reaching the 'warm waters of the Indian Ocean' via Pakistani territory. The Soviet side repeatedly explained that this reasoning was totally wrong.

"The Soviet Union which has always strictly fulfilled its contractual commitments hopes that Pakistan will do the same thing with regard to the Geneva agreements. This would undoubtedly permit to remove numerous obstacles in Soviet-Pakistani relations, to restore the atmosphere of goodneighbourly relations and open up broad prospects for developing equitable and mutually advantageous cooperation between the USSR and Pakistan. Further practical steps of Islamabad are a key to this development of events," the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Zholkver Interviewed

LD161020 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Studio interview with political observer Aleksandr Zholkver by news presenter Aleksandr Ruvinskiy—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ruvinskiy] The signing of the Geneva agreements on a political settlement around Afghanistan is the main topic today in the commentaries of the world press and in statements made by the statesmen of many countries. I have asked our political observer Aleksandr Zholkver to sum up these comments:

[Zholkver] First of all, I will note that the majority of observers and politicians consider that yesterday was an historic day, not just because the Geneva package opens up a real path toward the establishment of long-awaited peace in the long-suffering land of Afghanistan, but because many people see in the Geneva agreements the first example of the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts upon the principles of the new political thinking, the constructive, collective involvement of all those involved in a settlement, a search for compromises, a policy of realism, and last but not least, diplomatic art at a high level.

[Ruvinskiy] Yes, the reports that are reaching the editorial office note especially the great contribution made by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and Diego Cordovez, his personal representative, who has been intermediary at the Afghan-Pakistani talks for many years.

[Zholkver] Yes, we are talking about an extremely large contribution by the UN organization and its entire mechanism, which will monitor progress in implementing the Geneva agreements, and which is already taking measures for their practical implementation. For his own part, Perez de Cuellar stressed that none of this would have been possible were it not for the state wisdom and political will displayed by the Soviet leadership. In this connection, many observers pay particular attention to the fact that the Soviet Union, despite some dragging out of the signing of the Geneva package, which was not through its own fault, has confirmed its decision to start withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan on 15 May. At the same time it is noted that conditions for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops have been created now that the necessary legal foundations for ending interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan have been created.

[Ruvinskiy] I have also seen some fairly pessimistic comments about prospects for the swift establishment of a firm peace in Afghanistan.

[Zholkver] Indeed, the authors of commentaries of that kind—and they do indeed exist—point out the fact that the leadership of the armed opposition, which has dug itself in in Pakistan, is refusing to recognize the Geneva agreements and lay down its arms. And Washington is promising to continue deliveries of these weapons. Yet I still think we should recognize the changes of principle in the situation both surrounding Afghanistan and in the country itself. The overwhelming majority of Afghans are tired of bloodshed and want peace. The policy of national reconciliation is enjoying increasingly wide support, and the road is now wide open for the return home of Afghan refugees.

As far as the overall situation in the world is concerned, it is not by chance that today many are comparing the current Geneva package with the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. To many people, both of these seemed to be simply unthinkable, even quite recently. As we see, however, both of them have turned out to be possible in the course of the ever-widening dialogue between East and West, in the course of the strengthening of the foundations of universal security and the creation of a world in which ways of settling situations or conflict which are nonmilitary, and which do not involve the use of force, will become the norm and the rule for interstate relations. That is why so many people regard yesterday's event in Geneva as being an important and truly historic step along this path, which, one must say, is not an easy one.

Najibullah Appeals to Opposition

LD161454 Moscow TASS in English 1428 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 16 TASS—President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan has appealed to opposition. The appeal published in the Afghan press notes that more than a million and a half people came to the polls to elect the country's National Council (Bicameral Parliament). A total of 234 deputies have been elected to Volosi Jirgah—the lower chamber, and 128 to the senate—the upper chamber of the state's supreme legislative body. These figures are evidence of the grown awareness of the people, their striving for broadening democracy, deepening the political dialogue and forming a coalition government with the participation of all sectors of the Afghan society, including opposition, an end to the fratricidal war.

Symbolically, the days of the elections coincided with an event of great significance for the whole of our people—the signing of the Geneva agreements. The whole of our activities in that important historic moment have been marked by the national reconciliation policy, Najibullah stresssed.

The Afghan leader noted that the government of the republic is prepared for cooperation with that part of opposition, which has a stake in a real implementation of the policy of national reconciliation. He declared preparedness to receive opposition candidates to both chambers of the parliament. Najibullah urged opposition to make real steps for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation.

Najibullah 16 Apr Speech

LD161856 Moscow TASS in English 1733 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 16 TASS—A meeting of many thousands devoted to the signing of the Geneva agreements the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, was held in the centre of the Afghan capital today. The meeting was attended by President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah, leaders of the Afghan Government, of political and public organisations, workers and peasants, representatives of the clergy, businessmen, intelligentsia, youth, servicemen.

Najibullah addressed the meeting. "This day brought to every Afghan family the hope that peace and secure life will come soon," he said. "It can justly be described as the day of peace, the day of the triumph of new political thinking."

"The signing of the Geneva agreements removed the outward obstacles to the establishment of peace and security on Afghan soil," Najibullah said. He congratulated the entire Afghan people on behalf of the government upon this important historic event.

Reading out the main provisions of the Geneva package of the agreements, the Afghan leader noted that Soviet soldiers-internationalists will start their return home on May 15. "They came to our assistance at our request in the times of trial for our state, took part in the protection of Afghanistan's independence, freedom and territorial integrity," Najibullah said. "It is with a feeling of fraternal gratitude and most profound respect for them as champions of peace, justice and progress that the Afghan people will see them off."

The president also said that refugees staying in the territories of Iran and Pakistan must now be given an opportunity for voluntary return home, and pointed out that the government of the republic grants various privileges and material assistance to repatriates.

Najibullah noted that in order to dispel the last doubts of refugees who, under the impact of hostile propaganda, are afraid to return to their villages as units of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are stationed there, the government is prepared to consider the possibility of redeplying troops in other areas. At the same time the compatriots who returned home should exert every effort so that armed units of the opposition should not use the areas of their residence for combat operations. For this purpose the government is prepared to render assistance to the tribes in setting up armed units to ensure security in frontier districts. The president reaffirmed the readiness of the republic's armed forces to uphold Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity, if needed. The president urged the leaders of the opposition to return home and declared that they can found their newspapers and open their missions, can press for the realisation of their aims, by peaceful means only. He expressed the readiness to discuss with the opposition any matters, including the question of its participation in a coalition government. But this matter should be discussed among Afghans in Afghanistan, and not with representatives of foreign countries in foreign capitals. "We wish to see Afghanistan a sovereign, nonaligned and country. We want to live in peace and friendship with our neighbours, with all peace-loving peoples on Earth and we shall live in peace and friendship with them, Najibullah emphasized. [quotation marks as received]

"We were the first to take a historic step," the president said. "The nations have witnessed the fruits of the policy of national reconciliation. Peace in Afghanistan is a contribution of the Afghan people to peace on Earth."

The Afghan leader expressed profound gratitude to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his personal representative Diego Cordovez for their peace-making efforts. "We are also grateful to the United States Government, he said.

Afghan National Front Appeal

LD161431 Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 16 TASS—The successful completion of the Geneva talks is a victory for common sense and political realism, an outstanding result of the policy of national reconciliation, says the appeal to the nation issued by the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The statements by the leaders of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan of February 8 this year have laid the groundwork for a real settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. This was due to the constructive stand of the USSR and the USA, which (?have) assumed the role of guarantors of the Geneva agreements. The National Front expresses profound gratitude to the Soviet people for the great international assistance rendered to the Afghan people at a time difficult for them, the document notes.

The National Front urged the country's people to restore by a vigorous creative effort the economy undermined by the war and start jointly building a new, peaceful Afghanistan. In this connection the proposal has been put forward to announce the day of April 14, when the Geneva agreements were signed, to be the National Peace Day.

The Central Council of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan addressed a message to the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization and the World Peace Council saying that the completion of the Geneva talks is an important step on the way towards resolving the regional conflicts. It expresses the sense of profound gratitude to all the peace-loving forces of the world, the U.N. secretary general for their active participation in a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

Soviet Soldiers Interviewed

LD152022 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1455 GMT 15 Apr 88

[From "The World Today" program, presented by Vitaliy Ilyashenko; report from Kabul by correspondent Stanislav Tarasov]

[Text] [Opening video shows a formation of about 30 Soviet soldiers marching and singing in Kabul's streets] Together with cameraman Sergey Grigoyan, I witnessed this scene by chance in Kabul of a column of our soldiers belonging to the limited contingent of troops in Kabul.

Service life is service life and its orderly routine does not change, although the soldiers are already aware of the fact that agreements on Afghanistan have been signed in Geneva. These agreements provide for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from this country beginning 15 May.

Several thousand of our young lads have over 8 years undergone combat service in Afghanistan. They have fulfilled their internationalist duty with honor. Here before the eyes of the whole world they have been tested for quality and strength of character. Afghanistan will for a long time remain in their and our minds. Our boys have quickly grown into manhood here and through the privilege of age have found themselves indeed at the frontline of the struggle for the ideals of the revolution. Together with the men of the Afghan army they have been not only containing but indeed successfully routing the bandit formations of the counterrevolutionaries and helping to strengthen people's power in the country.

Now, as they are departing from Afghanistan, they are thinking about the future of the country. [video shows young Soviet soldier being interviewed]

How would you like to see Afghanistan's future?

[Young soldier] I would like to see the situation change for the better and for there to be real peace here. I would like there not to be this war and people to be at their work. The people here are very industrious and are fond of work. I would like them not to be hampered in building up their country. [video shows distant shot of a six-man foot patrol in rocky terrain. Then a close-up interview with a Soviet officer]

[Tarasov] How do you assess the significance of the date for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan? And how do you want to see the future of Afghanistan?

[Soviet officer] One only needs to look at the faces of our soldiers. However, the main thing is that we realize that thousands of Soviet families and Soviet people are now expecting us home. Now, as we are coming to the end of our mission here of giving assistance to the Afghan people, we shall of course make every effort to complete it in a well-organized way so that all the results we have achieved and all the assistance that Soviet soldiers and Soviet officers have given to the Afghan people remains for them as a memory of the good and fine friendship between the Soviet and Afghan peoples. [video shows large numbers of Soviet soldiers drawn up on parade. Some of them are seen being presented with combat awards]

[Tarasov] With the routine ordering of army life, everything proceeds according to a timetable, including baths, the study of marching songs, and dining-room, and combat duties. This is the routine of units wherever they are located, but in Afghanistan the lads have shown themselves to be something out of the ordinary and bolder, more energetic and more open [otkrytyy].

Far from home, they have been raptly following everything that is happening at home and the progress of our restructuring. They have a sharpened sense of their homeland. We were told that some of them in civilian life were even keen on Western music and wore exotic hair-styles. They came into the army as differing people, but became as one when the honor of their homeland was at stake and when their turn came, as it had come to their fathers, to carry out their internationalist duty, and they are receiving awards for their meritorious services. We await the return of such lads home, where there is now much work to be done.

Details of Afghan Elections Reported

LD151516 Moscow TASS in English 1448 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 15 TASS—Elections to the National Council (a two-chamber parliament) ended in the Republic of Afghanistan on Thursday. 1,547,000 Afghans, including representatives of the opposition, went to the polls. Out of 230 election districts for elections to the Volosi Jirgah, the lower chamber, 54 were on the territory controlled by the opposition. 18 out of 62 districts for elections to the Senate, the upper chamber, were also under control of the opposition.

A considerable number of Afghans now reside abroad and in some districts polling did not take place because of subversive activities of extremist groups.

The candidates elected to the National Council include representatives of various political parties, public organisations, peasantry, clergy, tribes and other strata of the population.

President Najibullah of Afghanistan made an address to the nation by the national radio and television on the occasion of the significant event in the life of the country. Women, youth, servicemen went to the polls for the first time in Afghanistan's history, he said. The population of the opposition-controlled areas also went to the polls. Legality was fully observed in the course of elections and ancient traditions of the Afghan people. The requirements of Islam were taken into account. But these festive days to our people were not without sacrifices, the president noted. The enemies tried in every way to hamper the polling. They intimidated the population, demanded that they should not go to the polls, fired at dwelling quarters and polling stations. But our people courageously opposed the attempts to thwart the significant event in Afghanistan's history.

Afghan Politburo Holds Routine Session

LD142129 Moscow TASS in English 2045 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 14 TASS—A regular session of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was held today.

It discussed the fulfillment of resolutions of the previous plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the party on the development of economy and the improvement of the organization of mutually advantageous cooperation of the state with private businessmen. It was pointed out at the session that the Afghan national conference of private businessmen would be held in Kabul next June-July.

PLO's Al-Wazir Reported Assassinated in Tunis

LD160636 Moscow TASS in English 0628 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Paris April 16 TASS—Abu Jihad (Khalil al-Wazir), deputy general commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution and member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Organisation, was assassinated last night by a group of unidentified persons, FRANCE PRESSE AGENCY reported from Tunis.

According to the report Abu Jihad was killed in his home in Tunis together with his two bodyguards. No organisation has yet claimed responsibility for this murder.

'Murderous Day' in Territories

LD170936 Moscow Tass in English 0900 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus April 17 TASS—TASS correspondent Alexey Vlasov reports:

Yesterday was the most murderous day in all the four and a half months of the Palestinian rebellion on Israeli-occupied Arab lands. According to reports reaching here, some 17 Palestinians were killed Saturday by the invaders and dozens were wounded.

Protest actions started early in the morning in the West Bank and the Gaza sector, when the first reports on the murder in Tunisia of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], one of the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, reached that area. He was extremely popular among Palestinians, and many people believe that he was one of the organizers and leaders of the rebellion.

Demonstrations and rallies started spontaneously almost everywhere on occupied territories. Their participants blamed Israeli secret services for the murder of Abu Jihad which try to eliminate leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the only lawful representative of the Palestinian people.

Thousands of soldiers were dispatched to disperse the demonstrators. For the first time since the beginning of the rebellion the invaders used fighter planes that fired at the demonstrations from the air. The Israelis imposed round the clock curfew on most of the populated localities and Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and the Gaza sector. However, demonstrations were continued. The leaders of the rebellion urged the population to declare a general strike starting from today in protest against the murder of Abu Jihad.

Commentary on Assassination

LD171609 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] The general strike in protest over the assassination in Tunis of one of the leaders of the PLO, Abu Jihad, is continuing on the occupied Arab territories. Leonid Rassadin, of our staff, has this comment to make.

The news of Abu Jihad's death came as a shock to me. I met with the man more than once when I was a Radio Moscow correspondent in the Middle East, especially often in Beirut where the PLO had its headquarters until August, 1982. I well remember the trips with Abu Jihad to the frontline positions of the Palestine resistance movement in southern Lebanon. Each of his trips there grew into a cordial conversation with fighters and sometimes into a rally. I can state that he enjoyed great popularity among the Palestinians. It's small wonder, therefore, that the murder of Abu Jihad has triggered off a wave of anger in the West Bank and in the Gaza sector, where hundreds of thousands have demonstrated. Once again the invaders harshly dealt with the protesters. On Saturday alone 17 Palestinians, women and children among them, were killed and hundreds more wounded.

Now who killed Abu Jihad and on whose orders? I personally do not doubt that the crime was organized by Israeli intelligence services. There are already dozens of

Palestinian activists on the list of their victims. To behead the PLO, Israeli agents use any means such as firearms, explosives, toxic gases, and even poison. I think that Abu Jihad was killed first of all because he was, as many believed, one of the organizers of the current uprising of Palestinians on the occupied lands. The talk in Israeli official circles is that there is one less Arab terrorist.

Meanwhile, I'd like to quote from my notebook the words Abu Jihad said in Beirut as far back as 1979. The PLO, all the Palestinians, he stressed, are fighting for the establishment of a free, independent state in which people of various nationalities and religions. Palestinians and Jews, Muslims and Christians, could live in peace and friendship. That was the life principle of Abu Jihad, the Palestinian leader brutally murdered by Israeli agents.

Mossad Ties to West Noted

LD171638 Moscow TASS in English 1534 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS—TASS political news analyst Sergey Kulik writes:

The opinion of all those who watch the disquieting development of the Middle Eastern events not through the spectacles of subjectivism and self-interest is unambiguous: The villainous assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] one of the leaders of the PLO and Fatah, deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the Palestinian Resistance Movement, in Tunis is the work of Israel. A correspondent of the American NBC TV network in the Middle East even specified: An order to remove Abu Jihad was issued by Rabin, Shamir, and Peres. A detachment of commandos who were paid for doing away with the Palestinian patriot consisted of 30 members. At 0115 on Saturday a group of eight or nine men and one woman penetrated the house of Jihad in one of the suburbs of the Tunisian capital. The hirelings of Zionists at first killed three guards and a car driver at point-blank range and then did away with Jihad. His body was riddled with bullets fired from submachine guns in the sight of his wife and children. Thus how the leaders of the terrorist regime of Tel Aviv have demonstrated for the umpteenth time how they understand "human rights."

Traditionally the top line-up of Israel would not acknowledge involvement in such piratic operations of its commandos. However, the manner of actions by the killers of Abu Jihad exposes the organisers of the slaying.

THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper recalls that the operation in Tunis closely resembles the raid on Beirut on April 9, 1973. At that time Israelis posing as tourists shot three Palestinian leaders to death in their apartments and then fled.

As if one can recall all the acts of international banditry by Tel Aviv which has made terrorism a state policy. Something else is now important to understand: The Zionist state which is incapable of bringing under control the flame of the people's uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied territories has taken a dangerous road of escalation of piracy.

Saturday night French television showed a footage from which it follows that on April 10 the Israeli Government declared for taking specific measures physically to remove PLO leaders. Abu Jihad whom many refer to as the inspirer of the 'revolution of stones' in the Palestinian lands was No. 1 on the list of persons whom the Zionists want to do away with.

At the same time Tel Aviv threatens a number of Arab states with every kind of punishment. Large-scale aggressive actions are being planned against Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. Something like that has already happened in the past. I would mention if only the Israeli air raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, on Syrian missile positions, or the bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunis at the end of 1985.

At that time Israeli aircraft flew westward with an air refueling which was done by means of aircraft of the U.S. Sixth Fleet. At present, analyzing the details of the Zionists' crime in the Tunisian capital, many observers hold that it was prepared by the Israeli secret service Mossad which is known for its amicable relationships with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Not so long ago the British SUNDAY TIMES admitted that Mossad officers 'feel at home in London'. Is not in this case connivance at Israel's crimes by its Western allies tantamount to involvement in its crimes and in the bloodshed in the Middle East?

An ABC correspondent in Tel Aviv admitted that the assassination of Abu Jihad had deepened the already critical situation in the Israel-occupied territories. His death gave rise to deep mourning and an outburst of indignation. A three-day general strike as been declared in the West Bank of the Jordan and in Gaza sector in response to the assassination of the PLO leader. Demonstrations of Arab population, the most vigorous and tumultuous ones in recent weeks—took place everywhere in the occupied territories. They were accompanied with fierce clashes between local population and Israeli soldiers who repeatedly resorted to firearms. At least thirteen people were killed by bullets and dozens of others injured. The anchorman of the West German A.R.D. TV programme stated that last Saturday would go down in history as the bloodiest day over all (?the years) of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, and that 150 Palestinians had already fallen victim to the Israeli invaders since the unrest began.

Israel and its patrons are reaping the sanguinary harvest of the policy of state terrorism. It is high time they realised that no ventures in the present-day situation is capable of making the Palestinians abandon the struggle for their human rights.

U.S. Weekly Cited on 'Commandos'

LD180712 Moscow TASS in English 0614 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 18 TASS—Prominent Palestinian leader Abu Jihad has been killed by a special group of Israeli commandos, reports the American weekly TIME.

The data, collected by the TIME correspondents in the Middle East, enable to reconstruct the precise picture of the assassination. The operation was carried out by a special 30-man group of Israel's armed forces. They landed on Tunisia's territory, having used rubber inflatable boats.

In Tunisia, the Israeli commandos were expected by three persons with "passports of Lebanese citizens" who put at their disposal two microbuses and a passenger car. Having made the raid, the assassins escaped in the same boat which had taken them to Tunisia, the American weekly asserts.

Israel Reportedly Behind Killing

LD181004 Moscow TASS in English 0945 Gmt 18 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus April 18 TASS—Radio Israel admitted today that Israel is behind the assassination of prominent Palestinian leader Abu-Jihad. Referring to the newspaper DAVAR, issued in Jerusalem, the radio underlined that the assassination in Tunisia had been masterminded by Chief of General Staff of Israeli Armed Forces Major General Dan Shomron. "The last day of Abu Jihad's life has become the first day of Dan Shomron's real service," Radio Israel stated.

U.S. Vetoes UN Resolution Condemning Israel

LD160116 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 15 TASS—The United States has again blocked the adoption of a U.N. Security Council resolution that would have condemned Israel's policies in the occupied Arab territories as human rights violations with regard to the Palestinian people.

The United States alone voted against the draft resolution backed by all other 14 member states which denounced the killing and wounding of Palestinian civilians by Israeli troops.

The draft voiced serious alarm over Tel Aviv's policy of "collective punishment" and called for revoking the Palestinian deportation order and securing a safe and immediate return of the people already deported.

The United States was especially displeased with the suggestion to emphasise the urgent need for achieving a comprehensive, fair and lasting settlement under the U.N. auspices of the Arab-Israeli conflict of which the Palestinian problem was an inalienable part and express the determination to act in this direction.

PLO's 'Arafat Characterizes Talks in Moscow

Speaks to Soviet Journalists

LD151912 Moscow TASS in English 1809 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Aden April 15 TASS—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), in an interview to Soviet journalists here has described his recent visit to Moscow as the most successsful out of all he had made before.

He noted with satisfaction that his meetings and conversations with General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and the talks between the PLO delegation and other Soviet leaders were very useful.

"I felt the enormous support expressed by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee for the fair struggle waged by the Palestinian people."

"I want to point to Mikhail Gorbachev's firm stance with regard to the need for convening an international conference on the Middle East under the U.N. auspices which is to draw representatives of all parties to the conflict, including the Arab people of Palestine, and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council," 'Arafat said.

The Soviet leader, he observed, reiterates the USSR's unchanged view that a fair and comprehensive settlement should take into account the interests of all—the Arabs, including the Palestinians, and Israel.

A U.N.-sponsored conference was the most effective mechanism for the settlement, he said. Recognition by all its participants of Resolutions 242 and 338 of the U.N. Security Council and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, should become its legal basis.

Interviewed by British Paper

PM141453 London MORNING STAR in English 13 Apr 88 p 4

[Undated interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by AL-ITTIHAD Moscow correspondent Leon Zehavi: "Facing New Goliath"]

[Text] It had been a really hard day for Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO leadership who had come to Moscow on a short working visit at such a decisive time for the Palestinian people.

The interview took place after midnight. That day there had been meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

But you couldn't see the tiredness on the faces of Yasir 'Arafat and his friends and the meeting was, as usual, very heartfelt.

There were the same informal embraces, the same broad smile, and Yasir 'Arafat asked after the health of everyone in the leadership of our party.

Zehavi: I'm very happy to have this interview with you, which is the second with our paper (Al Ittihad).

'Arafat: It's not the second—there were some telephone interviews before and it published my telegram of support and solidarity and my protest at the recent ban.

Zehavi: What are your impressions after your meeting with Mr Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders?

'Arafat: Now, after these very positive steps on Afghanistan and the agreement which will be signed in three or four days, our Soviet friends, and especially Comrade Gorbachev himself, are existing in the world and especially the Middle East.

So now we have a very good example. A very complicated situation around Afghanistan has been solved and this encourages the two superpowers and especially our friends the Soviet Union.

That's why it's so important to convene an international conference which is the most important means to achieve an overall and just peace in the Middle East.

It's very important to convene such a conference as soon as possible which would be under United Nations auspices and with the five permanent members of the security council and all parties concerned in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO.

It was stressed that the Palestinians have the right to self-determination and to have their independent state as the Israelis do.

Zehavi: Do you consider this as the main result of the summit between yourself and Mikhail Gorbachev?

'Arafat: Yes, we have decided to work together to achieve peace in this way.

Zehavi: What are your personal impressions of Mr Gorbachev as a man, a statesman, as a leader? You have met him several times already.

'Arafat: Yes, three times. I am an admirer of his, personally as a friend, and of his dynamic style and his new theoretical conception for solving not only internal problems in the Soviet Union, but international problems as well, especially the most complicated problems such as the Middle East and nuclear arms.

Without this dynamism it would have been impossible to reach the agreement on such a vital problem as regards regional problems.

Thanks to such an approach there is now an agreement on Afghanistan, and now as you know there is much activity to solve the problems of Namibia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and now it is the turn of the Palestinian problem.

In my opinion a courageous man like him is needed to achieve peace.

Zehavi: Let's turn now to US Secretary of State Shultz' mission to the Middle East. What do you think of US policy towards the Middle East?

'Arafat: It's very difficult to give you a clear official answer. I did not receive his plan from him and that is why I cannot give you an official answer.

But I can refer to all their statements and declarations. When they say 'no' to the PLO, my answer is: 'no stability'.

When they say 'no' to the Palestinian people and their rights, my answer is that nothing can be achieved in the Middle East by ignoring Palestinians, their rights and their representatives.

When they say 'no' to an international conference which would have powers, and stand only for a ceremonial international conference, well, what do Perez and Shultz think?

Do they really think that a superpower like the Soviet Union or the other big powers are going to accept simply coming to sign and after that they would be asked to give guarantees?

Why these contradictions? They ask from the big powers peace, security and guarantees for security, and they want them only to come and sign.

Who could accept an offer of this kind? These are stupid illusions.

When they say 'no' to a Palestinian state, or 'no' to the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, what is this?

It is our sacred right, we are a people of five and a half million. They accept the right to self-determination for the 1,500-strong Falkland Islands.

We have the right to be human beings and we have the right to self-determination and to form our own state.

I repeat the question I put to Ezer Weizman: Will he accept one binational state, like Belgium, or Switzerland, or Canada?

There must be a solution. For five months most of the army, together with its leaders, has been in the streets.

How long can it continue this savage barbaric Nazi means to rule over our people?

We ask for no more than to abide by international law.

Begin and Sharon once thought that with a big military operation in Lebanon they could eliminate the PLO and destroy the Palestinians' infrastructure.

And what happened? Here we are again. You can kill a part of a people but you can never kill all the people. And now the new David—the Palestinians—are facing the new Goliath—the Israeli military leadership.

Zehavi: What is your evaluation of the position taken by the Arab states at the present time?

'Arafat: At first support was not up to what was needed. But in the last few weeks, the situation has changed for the better.

Seventeen Arab states have agreed to hold a summit meeting after Ramadan in support of the uprising. Financial support has started growing, and so has political support.

The last declaration by the official Syrian representative after the meeting with George Shultz spoke of the continuation of support for self-determination and an independent Palestinian state, of the participation of the PLO, the demand for a common Arab delegation at the international conference, and for such an international conference to be one with the power to take decisions.

Zehavi: Was the question of a common Arab delegation to an international conference raised in your talks with the Soviet leaders?

'Arafat: Yes it was included in the discussions.

Zehavi: In our last interview I asked you about the relations between the PLO and Syria. Has there been any improvement?

'Arafat: Yes, yes. There are contacts with the Syrian leadership. They are participating together with us in the Arab follow-up committee in support of the uprising. Our Algerian brothers as well as our friends here in Moscow are doing their best to help in this.

Zehavi: Let's go back to Israel and the occupied territories. You know of course that the Israeli government has been trying lately to split and separate the democratic and peace forces in Israel, to isolate the Palestinian population in Israel and detach it from the Jewish democratic forces.

This, despite the fact that both stand for two states for the two peoples. What is your analysis?

'Arafat: This is part of their game. But they have tried this in the past and they failed. Even in the most difficult periods they failed. They will not succeed in frightening our people.

Zehavi: I asked at the press conference that you had here about your appreciation of the struggle of the democratic forces in Israel against the policy of brutal occupation by the Israeli government and in support of and solidarity with the uprising.

Would you like to add anything for AL-ITTIHAD and ZE HADEREKH?

'Arafat: I would like to stress once more, firstly, my highest appreciation for the steadfast stand of all the democratic, progressive and peace groups and parties—for their refusal to accept all that is happening in the occupied territories and their protest against it and for their denunciation of the savage and barbaric actions of the Isaeli forces against our children and our people.

I send them my gratitude from the bottom of my heart and tell them that we shall certainly achieve peace in the land of peace.

We have to thank your people for their brave struggle, because their struggle against the occupation helps our people to free themselves from the occupation which is rotting the entire fabric of our society.

There is no future or security for Israel without getting rid of the occupation, without self-determination for the Palestinian people and a state of their own.

This is what they have to understand. One cannot oppress and terrorise a whole people forever. There is a limit to every power.

This is the senselessness of the arrogance of power. Where is Attila now? Where is Hitler? Where is the Persian empire? Where is the Spanish empire?

The Israeli leadership acts not only against the Palestinians but against Judaism as well. And Judaism is a part of my culture, of my civilisation, of my heritage, just as Christianity and Islam are.

The stupid policy of the Israeli government cannot succeed, especially since there is a strong will for peace.

Zehavi: The Israeli right-wing forces say 'it's either them or us.' What do you say?

'Arafat: This is not our approach. We said that we are ready to form our independent state on any part from which the Israelis would retreat. They have refused to accept even this.

What do they want? We are in the 20th century. They have to understand reality and face the facts.

Zehavi: What are your feelings on leaving Moscow?

'Arafat: The most important thing I felt in my visit to the Soviet Union has been the wholehearted warm admiration the Soviet people have for our brave people. Our people are not alone.

Soviet Groups Send Aid to Palestinians

LD152036 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—TASS correspondent Viktor Lebedev reports:

"A plane with the first consignment of goods sent by Soviet public organizations to the Palestinian population on Israeli-occupied lands will take off in the Sheremetevo Airport today and will head for Cyprus," Vladimir Maslin, first deputy chairman of the Board of the Soviet Peace Fund, has said.

He made this statement at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists at the USSR Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Committee. The Soviet public sent to Palestinians as a gift mostly children's clothes, food and medicinal preparations which are so much needed by the Palestinian people waging a courageous struggle against Israeli invaders. The second consignment will be sent on April 20 and will be turned over by a Soviet delegation to a PLO committee representative in Cyprus. Later on it will be delivered to the occupied Arab territories by the U.N. channels.

"Soviet people not only voice their solidarity with and support for the Palestinian people but also send their donations to the peace fund for rendering assistance to Palestinians. They express confidence that the Palestinian people will win and will acquire a motherland and statehood," said Ahmed Iskanderov [name as received], deputy chairman of the USSR Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Committee and head of a Soviet delegation going to Cyprus.

Nabil 'Umar, special representative of PLO in the USSR, expressed gratitude to the Soviet public for assistance and support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people. He pointed out that the recent meeting of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, reflected the striving of the Soviet and Palestinian people for an early peaceful and just settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Developments in Kuwaiti Airliner Hijacking

Comments by Kuwaiti Envoy

LD151757 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Kuwait resolutely condemns terrorism, the Kuwaiti ambassador to the Soviet Union, 'Abd al-Muhsen al-Du'ayj, has pointed out, commenting on the latest developments connected with the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner.

In an interview with a correspondent of the newspaper TRUD, published today, he pointed out that such actions played into the hands of Israeli aggressors.

Shi'ite extremist parties, backed by the Khomeyni regime, were formed in southern Lebanon following the June 1982 invasion of Israeli troops.

These groups carried out terrorist actions against Soviet representatives, American and French embassies in several countries.

Kuwaiti security forces arrested some of these terrorists. In February 1984, 17 people received various prison terms, three were sentenced to death, although the sentences were not carried out.

None of the criminals were Kuwaiti nationals. They were convicted not for an attempted coup d'etat, but for criminal actions against foreign states carried out in Kuwaiti territory.

Al-Du'ayj said that the hijackers carried forged passports: Four Bahrain, one Colombian and two Iraqi ones. The ambassador highly assessed the mediatory role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in talks with the hijackers.

Spokesman Backs Kuwaiti Stand

JN172014 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Apr 88 p 25

[Salam Musafir dispatch from Moscow]

[Text] An official spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry has expressed his country's appreciation for the strong and resolute Kuwaiti stand toward international terrorism.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', the spokesman said that the unequivocal Kuwaiti rejection of the terrorists' demands reflects principled and firm dealing not only with a special cause such as the hijacked Kuwaiti plane, but with the issue of international terrorism as a general case, which requires brave, fast, and effective measures to combat it. He said that Kuwait has proved its firmness against the terorists' blackmail. The Soviet spokesman added that Moscow considers the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane "Al-Jabiriyah" and taking its passengers as hostages a hideous crime that completely conflicts with all human values and international norms. He added that the USSR calls for international cooperation to prevent acts of terrorism of this kind. He pointed out that his country's stand is not new in this regard. He added that the USSR has proposed at the United Nations an international treaty to combat terrorism, and said further: The disparity, however, between defining the meaning of terrorism, some West European states' attempts to consider national liberation movements such as the Palestinian resistance a form of international terrorism, and these states' attempts to exclude state terrorism from the concept of international terrorism, such as Israel's attacks on Lebanon and the other Arab states, and the U.S. attacks on Libya—all these matters have hampered the birth of such an international treaty which, if it was attained, would have helped a great deal in stopping acts of terrorism and piracy.

The spokesman said that the USSR's stand toward terrorism is firm, principled, and radical, and that Moscow is ready to cooperate with other states to combat this evil, spiteful phenomenon. He pointed out that acts of terrorism are not justified and that those who work for noble objectives do not employ terrorism, a criminal act, to achieve their objectives.

The spokesman said: Our country believes that the United Nations is the best framework to adopt resolute measures against international terrorism. For example, we call for forming an international court under UN auspices to investigate acts of terrorism. This is a proposal the USSR has submitted to the recent session of the UN General Assembly. He added: This is in addition to our country's readiness to sign bilateral agreements with any state to combat terrorism. He pointed out that Moscow believes that the continuation of regional conflicts constitutes the right climate for international terrorism, particularly the Middle East conflict and the Iraq-Iran war.

Concluding his statement to AL-ANBA', the Soviet spokesman said: The series of events that are related to the hijacking of the Kuwaiti passenger plane makes us realize that this incident goes far beyond its limits to reach major international issues, and that the strong Kuwaiti stand toward international terrorism will serve as a firm begining to start international cooperation to combat terrorism.

U.S. Criticized at Tripoli Terrorism Symposium

LD172011 Moscow TASS in English
1959 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli April 17 TASS—TASS Correspondent Vyacheslav Anchikov reports:

The United States' and Israel's policy of state terrorism was strongly condemned here at an international symposium on issues concerning the fight against terrorism.

The widely representative meeting, which was timed for the second anniversary of the U.S. attack against Libya and organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Organisation of Socialist and Progressive Parties of Mediterranean Countries was attended by scholars, political and public figures, and journalists from 25 countries, including the Soviet Union.

The United States, seeking to divert the attention of the world public from U.S. criminal actions, it was pointed out at the symposium, seeks to label as terrorists those who fight for their national liberation and uphold their independence.

A resolution adopted by the participants in the Tripoli meeting points out the need for withdrawal of foreign navies from the Mediterranean and for making it a zone of peace, free from nuclear weapons and foreign bases. The document gives a high appraisal of the proposals on the Mediterranean by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and emphasizes the importance of implementing these important initiatives in practice.

Party, Government Send Cable to Syrian Leaders

LD161424 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1300 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers have addressed telegrams of congratulations to the president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, and the prime minister of the republic, Comrade Mahmud al-Zu'bi, in connection with the 42d anniversary of the evacuation of foreign troops.

The telegrams say that the elimination of the foreign military presence became the beginning of a new important stage in the history of your country, as a result of the heroic fight of the freedom-loving Syrian people, a stage of liberation from the consequences of colonialism, the strengthening of national sovereignty, and of the implementation of socioeconomic changes. The Soviet Union highly values the relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries and aspires to deepen them further, lending them the mutually beneficial character of still greater fruitfulness.

The telegrams state that Soviet-Syrian interaction in the struggle for peace, security, and social progress, based on the friendship and cooperation treaty, is an important factor in modern international relations.

Zaytsev Delegation Ends Visit to Tunisia

LD132231 Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tunis April 13 TASS—A delegation of the USSR-Tunisia Friendship Society led by (?first) deputy chief of a department of the CPSU Central Committee Yevgeniy Zaytsev concluded its visit to Tunisia.

While the Soviet delegation was staying in Tunisia, the delegation's head was received by Tunisia's prime minister, general secretary of the ruling party of the Democratic Constitutional Association, Hedi Baccouche. The delegation had meetings and contacts with the leadership of Tunisia-USSR Friendship Society, headed by its chairman Zakaria Ben Mustapha.

Questions of the development of Soviet-Tunisian relations were discussed during the talks. The striving of both countries for the widening and deepening of friendly cooperation in various spheres was emphasized.

A photo exhibition "USSR—Tunisia: Friendship and Cooperation" was opened in one of the capital's exhibition halls. An exhibition of Soviet books was mounted in the Tunisian National Library. Works of Soviet artists are on display at the exhibition "Modern Soviet Visual Arts".

An arrangement was reached on establishing of sister city relations between Soviet and Tunisian cities: Sochi and Sousse, Taganrog and Gabes, Makhachkala and Sfax. These cities will exchange delegations.

Sub-Saharan Africa

SWAPO Leader Nujoma Arrives in Moscow

LD161205 Moscow TASS in English 1054 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—A delegation of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), Namibia, led by SWAPO President Sam Nujoma has arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the Soviet leadership.

Statement on Mozambican Delegation's Visit

PM180827 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

["Joint Report on Official Visit to the Soviet Union by Delegation of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Mozambique"—IZVESTIYA headline]

[Text] A Mozambican People's Assembly delegation led by S. Shambuka [name as published], member of the People's Assembly Permanent Commission, visited the Soviet Union 1-11 April 1988 at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The delegation was received by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Mozambican parliamentarians also had meetings and conversations with L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union, T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and members of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' standing commissions.

The delegation laid wreaths at the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall.

During its stay in the USSR the Mozambican delegation visited the Ukrainian SSR, the Turkmen SSR, and the city of Leningrad, where it saw the organization and functioning of organs of state power and also economic, social, and cultural building and other aspects of Soviet people's life in the conditions of restructuring.

During the conversations, which were held in an atmosphere of genuine comradeship and mutual understanding, the sides exchanged information on the activity of the two countries' supreme organs of state power and discussed questions of bilateral Soviet-Mozambican relations and the current world situation.

The Soviet side briefed the Mozambican guests on the development of the Soviet Union's revolutionary restructuring during its latest stage, the preparations being made by the CPSU and all Soviet people for the 19th all-union party conference, and the multifaceted activity of soviets in the center and at the local level.

In its turn, the Mozambican delegation told the Soviet side about preparations for the Fifth Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Party Congress, to be held in 1989. They also talked about the tasks and main areas of activity of the people's assemblies aimed at mobilizing all social strata of society, successfully implementing the program of economic revival, and fully eliminating the armed groups operating on the orders of the apartheid regime.

The delegation expressed profound gratitude to the Soviet people for the unconditional support and multilateral aid they have given and continue to give to the People's Republic of Mozambique. The Soviet side reaffirmed its solidarity with the Mozambican people in their efforts to strengthen the national independence won in a difficult struggle and in the task of building a new society free from exploitation of man by man.

The Soviet and Mozambican parliamentarians noted with satisfaction that a high level of cooperation between the two countries has been reached in various spheres and expressed the mutual desire to expand and deepen this cooperation in the interests of the two countries' peoples. The sides were unanimous that the results of the talks between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and J.A. Chissano, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of Mozambique, held during his official friendly visit to the Soviet Union in August 1987 are an important means of improving Soviet-Mozambican cooperation and making it more effective.

During their discussion of the current world situation, the sides confirmed the community of their positions on the most serious international problems and expressed their mutual commitment to the idea of creating a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

The Soviet and Mozambican parliamentarians advocated introducing new political thinking into the practice of international relations in solving the problems facing mankind.

The Mozambican delegation highly appraised the Soviet Union's efforts to promote initiatives aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons by the year 2000. They expressed the opinion that the Soviet-U.S. summit held in Washington in December 1987 was a historic event in international life, as it led to the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which opens up real prospects for beginning an extensive, dynamic disarmament process and strengthens mankind's hopes of a secure future.

In this connection the Soviet and Mozambican representatives particularly noted the importance of the forthcoming Moscow Soviet-U.S. summit and the achievement of an accord to halve Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive weapons while observing the ABM Treaty.

The sides emphasized that an equally important role belongs to all countries' parliaments in solving the complex of disarmament problems—a process in which all states and peoples must constructively participate.

The two countries' parliamentarians expressed the belief that ensuring universal peace and security also requires the restructuring of international economic relations and the establishment of a new, just international economic order. They noted the close link between disarmament and development, stressing that a solution to the disarmament problem would make it possible to channel additional resources into many vital socioeconomic and cultural tasks facing all states.

The Soviet and Mozambican parliamentarians devoted particular attention to the persisting hotbeds of tension and conflicts in various parts of the world, including in southern Africa. In this connection the sides advocated a just political settlement of these conflicts with full consideration for the legitimate interests of states and the right of people to decide their own future on a sovereign basis. The sides decisively condemned the racist Pretoria regime for its policy of aggression and destabilization with regard to Mozambique, Angola, and other "frontline" states, its continuing unlawful occupation of Namibia, and the escalation of repression within its own country.

The Soviet and Mozambican parliamentarians expressed their satisfaction with the positive results of the visit by the Mozambican People's Assembly delegation to the USSR and consider them to be an indisputable contribution to strengthening friendship and cooperation between the two countries and peoples.

The sides expressed the belief that the continued development of interparliamentary ties between the two countries will help to deepen Soviet-Mozambican cooperation in all areas.

The Mozambican parliamentarians thanked the USSR Supreme Soviet for the warm, cordial reception extended to them on Soviet soil.

On behalf of the Mozambican People's Assembly, the head of the Mozambican delegation invited a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to pay an official visit to Mozambique at a date to be decided later. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

East Europe

Ryzhkov, Delegation Leave for Hungary

LD180932 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0740 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 18 Apr (TASS)—N.I. Ryzhkov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Council of Ministers chairman left Moscow for Budapest today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the MSZMP Central Committee and the Hungarian Council of Ministers. The following officials also left with the head of the Soviet Government: A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; N.A. Pugin, USSR Minister of the automotive industry; A.G. Kovalev, first deputy USSR minister of foreign affairs; A.I. Lukashov, deputy chairman of the USSR Gosplan; and B.I. Stukalin, Soviet ambassador to Hungary.

Arrive in Hungary

LD180951 Moscow TASS in English 0938 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Budapest April 18 TASS—Nikolay Ryzhkov, a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived here today on an official friendly visit.

He was welcomed at the Ferihegy Airport, which was decked out with state flags of the USSR and Hungary, by Karoly Grosz, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers'

Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of Hungary, Jozsef Marjai, a deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and trade minister of Hungary, and other officials.

PZPR Spokesman on Quality of Bilateral Ties

PM151155 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 88 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "High Assessment"]

[Text] Warsaw, 13 Apr—The declaration on Soviet-Polish cooperation in the field of ideology, science, and culture signed in April last year in Moscow by M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, and W. Jaruzelski, PZPR Central Committee first secretary and PRC State Council chairman, has made it possible to raise the two fraternal countries' mutual relations to a qualitatively new level. This was stated by a Polish Government press spokesman at a Warsaw news conference.

Within the framework of the declaration's fulfillment there has been a considerable increase in the exchange of delegations of Soviet and Polish journalists, over 70 different newspaper and journal editorial offices have established direct bilateral contacts, and television and radio linkups are being carried out. Contacts among the creative intelligentsia have been animated. Warsaw Days have been held successfully in Moscow and exhibitions, concerts, and creative competitions have been organized in both the USSR and Poland. In accordance with the plans of Soviet publishers, over 70 books by Polish authors will be published this year and the idea of organizing a Polish song festival in the USSR is being implemented. A Polish information and culture center will be opened in Moscow 20 April. A joint commission of USSR and Polish scholars on the history of relations between the two countries is working actively within the framework of cooperation in the ideological field.

Marked progress has been outlined in the field of scientific and technical cooperation organized under the direct patronage of the USSR and Polish academies of sciences. There has been an increase in the number of joint scientific and technical development, of which there were 212 in 1987. The procedure for individual tourist exchange has been eased and the passport system has been simplified.

Comparison of Shevardnadze-CPCZ Leaders' Talks

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 13 April carries in its Second Edition on page 4 a TASS report on the meeting between E.A. Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR minister of foreign affairs, and B. Chnoupek, CPCZ Central Committee member and CSSR minister of foreign affairs, held in Moscow on 12 April. The PRAVDA report, published under the general heading "Official Announcements," has been compared with the Moscow Domestic Service version published in the 12 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages 32-33, under the subhead "Shevardnadze Meets Leaders," revealing the following variations:

Page 33, column one, paragraph continued from previous page, line ten, PRAVDA reads: ...on stepping up efforts, in the wake of the signing of the treaty on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, to achieve fresh...(supplying phrase)

Page 33, column one, last paragraph, last line, PRAVDA reads: ... problems within Afghanistan.

The conversation took place in an atmosphere of fraternity and complete mutual understanding typical of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations. (supplying final paragraph)

Comparison of Dobrynin-Jakes Prague Meeting

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 13 April carries in its Second Edition on page 4 a TASS report on the meeting between A. Dobrynin, CPSU Central Committee secretary and M. Jakes, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, held in Prague on 11 April. The PRAVDA report, published under the general heading "Official Announcements," has been compared with the Moscow TASS version published in the 12 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page 33, under the headline "Dobrynin Meets Jakes During Prague Visit," revealing the following variations:

Column one, paragraph one, line eight, PRAVDA reads: ...PEACE AND SOCIALISM. The CTK agency reports that information on the implementation... (omitting English title translation and supplying reference to CTK in subsequent paragraph)

Column one, paragraph two, last line, PRAVDA reads: ...situation were discussed.

The high level of collaboration between the CPCZ and CPSU and the intensive nature of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations in all spheres were noted at the meeting. It was stressed that the implementation of restructuring in the economy and the democratization of social life in both countries are creating broad new opportunities for the further development of CPSU-CPCZ contacts in the interests of improving the dynamics and content of comprehensive cooperation.

When questions of present-day international political development were...(supplying additional paragraph and word "international" in first line of third paragraph)

Pugwash Symposium Meeting Ends in Prague

LD171902 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Prague April 17 TASS—The 50th symposium of the Pugwash movement of scientists for peace, disarmament and security came to a close here today. It was attended by 70 delegates from 24 countries of Europe, Asia and the Americas.

The symposium mainly dealt with matters concerning the establishment of nuclear- and chemical weapons-free zones in Europe as well as scientists' cooperation in the scientific and technical, economic and humanitarian fields.

The participants in the symposium gave a high appraisal of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, and called for successful continuation of the dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States on cutting down strategic offensive arms.

West Europe

Baltic Demarcation Accord Signed With Sweden

LD181205 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] In Moscow today, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Foreign Minister Sten Andersson signed the final agreement on the border demarcation in the Baltic between the Soviet Union and Sweden, as well as fishing rights in the area. Thus a definite end has been put to almost 20 years of vexed negotiations about the disputed area. The agreements will be ratified in June by the Swedish Riksdag and the Supreme Soviet.

Danish Nuclear Arms Vote 'Black Day' for NATO

LD162031 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1330 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, 16 Apr (TASS)—TASS commentator Maksim Knyazkov writes:

It would scarcely be an exaggeration to say that last Thursday was a "black day" for the NATO leaders. On that day the Danish Folketing (parliament) adopted by 75 votes to 58 a resolution demanding that the government should inform in writing the commanders of foreign warships entering Danish ports that the presence of nuclear weapons on Danish territory is forbidden in peacetime.

If one looks at the basics, this document contains nothing essentially new. The ban on the deployment or carrying of nuclear weapons through Danish territory in peacetime has been in force in that country for more than 30 years, and in essence the legislators have merely confirmed that it remains in force and must be observed rigorously.

Nevertheless—and this is an eloquent demonstration of how "rigorously" the NATO leaders have observed the laws of their ally—the results of the Foleting vote has had the effect of a bombshell in a number of Western capitals. [passage omitted]

But there is something else striking. In everything being said and written at the moment in the NATO capitals about events in Denmark, there literally shows through an obstinate unwillingness by the NATO strategists to look at the problem of maintaining security in Europe other than through the prism of the strategy of "nuclear deterrence," a strategy born in the age of the "cold war," which in no way accords with the spirit of the time.

Nevertheless, perhaps it is time to cast aside outmoded stereotypes and to search for other paths to ensure security on the continent: security based not on the "balance of fear" before a nuclear catastrophe but on mutual trust and cooperation.

Soviet Naval Exercise off Norway Reported

PM181041 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 5 Apr 88 p 12

[Unattributed report: "Soviet Naval Exercise Continues"]

[Text] A Soviet naval exercise off the coast of Finnmark and as far south as the coast of Helgeland is now in its fifth day. Some 9 or 10 ships are engaged in antisubmarine and tactical exercises, Colonel Gullow Gjeseth of the Defense High Command said. He described the exercise as medium-scale and added that Soviet naval exercises are not unusual in April. There was no advance warning given of the naval exercise, but there is no international requirement for such advance warning. The exercise is taking place far out to sea and is being watched by the armed forces in the usual way.

Yesterday afternoon three landing craft and two tankers were 400 km west of Helgeland. Gjeseth could not say what these ships were doing so far south.

The other ships in the exercise are further north. Yesterday two cruisers and a destroyer were in the waters between Finnmark and Bjornoya. A frigate and two destroyers were north of Vardo. "Aircraft were also involved in the exercises in addition to the ships," Gjeseth said.

The Defense High Command is following the exercise. There have been no indications in the Baltic of corresponding naval activity from the Leningrad naval base.

"Soviet naval exercises in the northern regions generally last a week," Gjeseth said.

Levadov, Zheglov View West German Revanchism

PM181105 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Colonel L. Levadov and Captain M. Zheglov article: "Venom of Revanchism; As Before the FRG Population Is Being Poisoned by It"]

[Excerpts] The slightest hint that revanchist tendencies are being encouraged in the FRG irritates official Bonn. "In our country, revanchists can at best be found on the psychiatrist's couch," Chancellor H. Kohl once stated.

Of course, one cannot fail to agree that revanchism is a kind of mental illness. But the statement by the head of the FRG Government on the hospitalization of all carriers of this disease and especially its eradication was obviously hasty. The facts testify to quite the reverse. The dangerous affliction has still not been eradicated. West German society has the soil and the conditions for maintaining revanchist tendencies. [passage omitted]

The Bundeswehr plays a most important role in the spread of revanchist tendencies in FRG society. This is done above all through the ideological processing of FRG servicemen, directed at forming in them the "image of the enemy," which is how the countries of the socialist community and their armies are viewed. The military defeat of fascist Germany in World War II is presented as "accidental," and Europe's postwar structure is declared "unfair."

Representatives of revanchist and militarist organizations regularly visit the Bundeswehr military townships and barracks as "honored guests." In their speeches and during the discussions organized afterward, they try to convince the military audience of the need to reexamine the results of the last war.

Revanchist ideas in the Bundeswehr are also asserted by giving barracks and firing ranges the former names of towns and places which were previously part of the "Third Reich" and which are now in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union. With the same aim, "rooms" and "corners of tradition" in which various Wehrmacht objects—models of arms, items of military dress and equipment, banners, orders and other "relics"—are kept. Trips are also made by soldiers and officers to the GDR border, where the ideas of the "unresolved German question" are rammed down their throats.

Not confining itself to its own department, the Bundeswehr command is also attempting to poison with revanchism young men of pre-draft age. To this end, specially trained officers are regularly brought in to hold classes for secondary school senior pupils. The FRG military department stand at the international school exhibition which recently took place in Dortmund is an eloquent testimony to the content of these classes. A map called "Annexations by the Soviet Union and the Spread of Its Sphere of Influence in the West"—the name speaks for itself—occupied the central position on the stand: Ignoring the historical truth, the Bundeswehr cartographers designated as annexed those territories which went to Poland and the USSR in accordance with the decisions adopted by the allies in the anti-Hitlerite coalition in Yalta and Potsdam. There is no need to particularly stress that this "textbook" is meant to raise young West Germans in the spirit of revenge and to form in future Bundeswehr soldiers the conviction that it is necessary to restore a "united Germany."

Many statements have been heard on the banks of the Rhine recently about the FRG's readiness to "open a new page in Soviet-West German relations and fill it with specific content." Moreover, in contrast to previous years, these statements were reinforced with specific steps. During the visit to the FRG by E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, in January this year a number of documents were signed, substantially not only expanding the treaty and legal basis of mutual relations but also making a vital contribution to the business of mutually advantageous cooperation between our countries.

The statement made by H.-D. Genscher, FRG foreign minister, that the development of Soviet-West German relations is viewed in Bonn as part of a larger task—creating a peaceful setup in Europe in which states can live under conditions of peaceful cooperation—was received with great satisfaction in our country.

I would like to add to this only that fulfilling this task largely depends on how much the European states, and primarily the FRG, will not only consider reciprocal economic interests but will also take account of the political and territorial realities which emerged on our continent as a result of World War II and which were enshrined by the decisions in Yalta and Potsdam and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

DER SPIEGEL Cited on FRG Arms Plans

PM181201 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent Ye. Grishin dispatch: "FRG: Is the Bundeswehr Upgrading Its Arms?"]

[Text] Bonn—The FRG Defense Ministry has prepared a secret plan for the latest "arms upgrading" of the Bundeswehr and the NATO allies' troops stationed on West German territory.

The well-informed weekly DER SPIEGEL reports this, citing a Bonn military department document which has come into its possession. It appears from this document that the new program provides for the "further improvement of nuclear and conventional armaments" with a view to preserving the NATO deterrence strategy. "Nuclear weapons on West German territory are indispensable and must be modernized even if the Soviet Union agrees to considerable reductions in conventional armed forces," Bonn strategists believe. Their plan includes the following main elements:

The creation of a new air-launched tactical missile invulnerable to the enemy's antiaircraft defense;

Increasing the range of the "Lance" missile;

Equipping artillery with new nuclear warheads and long-range guns;

Further improvement and production of contemporary combat aircraft and conventional and nuclear bombs.

But that is not all. The FRG and Britain are to add to the NATO arsenal an air squadron of F-15E-type fighter bombers. "Equipped with new tactical missiles they are to cover all targets on the enemy's territory, including that of the Soviet Union and thus compensate for the 'Pershing-2' missiles, which it is planned to eliminate under the U.S.-USSR treaty," the document says.

By spring 1989 the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean will receive an additional 380 cruise missiles with a range of 2,500 km, which "can also threaten USSR territory."

DER SPIEGEL points out that Defense Minister M. Woerner has initiated the new plan for "arms upgrading."

CPSU's Biryukova Receives Italian Communist

LD151221 Moscow TASS in English 1218 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Today Aleksandra Biryukova, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received Lanfranco Turci, member of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party, president of the National League of the Cooperatives of Italy, who is currently in the Soviet Union at the head of the league's delegation at the invitation of the Centrosoyuz (Central Council of Soviet Consumer Cooperatives).

In an interview which was held in a friendly atmosphere, much attention was devoted to the course of the restructuring process in the USSR. Matters pertaining to development of cooperation between the league's member firms and Soviet cooperative and state-run organisations were discussed.

Italian Leaders Condemn Senator's Assassination

LD170814 Moscow TASS in English 0746 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Rome April 17 TASS—The killing of Roberto Ruffilli, a senator from the Christian-Democratic Party and close associate of Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita, in the small city of Forli Saturday has sparked a wave of outrage in Italy. Numerous politicians and public figures, the governing bodies of parties and democratic trade unions denounced this gory crime, the responsibility for which was claimed by the Red Brigades, an underground extremist group.

"The assassination of Sen. Roberto Ruffilli is a horrendous crime against the most sacred of human values—life. It is an abominable attack against parliamentary and representative institutions which are the fulcrum of our democratic state", says a telegram of condolences sent by President Francesco Cossiga.

Premier Ciriaco de Mita described the terrorist act in Forli as a tragic continuation of the crime in the Naples where the explosion of the trinitrotoluene-filled car killed five people and injured 20 last Thursday. The Red Brigades, he said, reared their head and dealt a blow to Italy's democratic mainstays at the decisive point of political changes in the country. The barbarians cowardly killed a peaceful man who devoted his life to sciences, a representative of the intelligentsia linked with politics.

The warning issued by the terrorists is as clear as ten years ago when they killed Aldo Moro to prevent the implementation of his political programme, De Mita emphasized.

Senator Roberto Ruffilli took a direct part in working out a programme of Italy's current cabinet led by Ciriaco de Mita who was sworn in just a few days ago. So, his assassination is seen as a direct move against the newly-established government, as the desire to plunge the country in a situation of chaos and dissaray. Such actions meet with a decisive rebuff on the part of the Italian Communists, all democratic forces demanding an end to the reign of terrorism in the country.

CPSU Delegation Concludes Visit to Cyprus

LD160542 Moscow TASS in English 1749 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Nicosia April 15 TASS—President Yeoryios Vasiliou of the Republic of Cyprus received Thursday a CPSU delegation led by Ivan Gustov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, that had taken part in a mourning ceremony in connection with the death of Ezekias Papaioannou, general secretary of the Progressive Party of the Working People (AKEL). The head of the Republic of Cyprus pointed out a sincere character of friendship between the peoples of the two countries. He expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its firm and consistent support for the struggle of the [word indistinct] people for a just settlement of the Cyprus problem.

The CPSU delegation had meetings at the AKEL Central Committee where they had a conversation with Dimitrios Khristofias, acting AKEL general secretary. He thanked the CPSU Central Committee for profound condolences in connection with the grave loss, the death of Ezakias Papaioannou. Khristofias reiterated solidarity of Cyprus Communists with the home and foreign policy pursued by the CPSU.

The CPSU delegation left for home today.

Latin America & Caribbean

Panama on 'High Alert' Against U.S. Invasion

LD180807 Moscow TASS in English 0736 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Panama April 18 TASS—Nearly 15,000 Panamanians, living in close proximity to the American military facilities in the Panama Canal Zone, were "put on high alert". This decision was taken at the meetings of citizens concerned over the possible armed invasion by the USA, which demands the resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander-in-chief of the National Defense Forces of Panama. Washington has imposed a number of economic sanctions against Panama and is moving additional troops into the zone. If the United States carries out the invasion, Panama will become a new Vietnam for it, said Rigoberto Paredes, a member of the Panamanian parliament.

NEWSWEEK Says CIA Derailing Nicaragua Talks

LD181014 Moscow TASS in English 0956 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 18 TASS—The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is out to derail peace talks between the Government of Nicaragua and the contras, NEWSWEEK magazine has reported.

It was told by sources in the rebel movement that "a senior C.I.A. officer urged (contra) leaders in Miami to press for concessions the Sandinistas are likely to reject".

The magazine said that if the negotiations collapsed, the C.I.A. counted on blaming their failure on the Nicaraguan Government and this, in the opinion of the agency's strategists, would offer a chance "for renewed U.S. military aid" for the rebels.

The NEWSWEEK report shed more light on who had been standing behind the contra chieftains when they had been making one demand after another before the start of the round of the talks that is currently under way in Managua.

It is the patience and goodwill of Nicaragua's Government that has made it possible to continue the process of normalizing the situation in that country and around it.

Nicaragua Defense Minister on 'Peace' Proposals

LD180812 Moscow TASS in English 0703 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Managua April 18 TASS—The Nicaraguan Government has tabled proposals at the direct talks here with the leadership of the armed counterrevolution on the final ceasefire and the attainment of a lasting peace in the country in keeping with the obligations taken in Sapoa. The contra delegation had to adjourn the meeting for several hours for a careful study of the proposals of the national leadership.

Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, who is heading the Nicaraguan delegation, told a press conference on Sunday that the government's peace initiatives were largely aimed at overcoming the differences that arose in Sapoa over the concentration of armed groups in ceasefire zones and their activity in the period of provisional armistice. The government is prepared to reach a mutually acceptable solution of these issues, which would lead to the earliest attainment of peace in the country, the minister said. He pointed out that certain circles in the contra leadership were not interested in achieving any agreements with the government and attaining a negotiated settlement of the situation in Nicaragua. Humberto Ortega condemned the policy of the U.S. Administration, which finances mercenaries to wage an aggression against Nicaragua and tries to torpedo Nicaraguans' peace efforts. He urged the contra delegation to take a constructive stand in the interests of the entire Nicaraguan people and of ending the bloodshed.

The government offered contras to finish the concentration of their forces with arms and hardware by May 15 and to start from June 1 this year the process of their return to peaceful life and political dialogue. For its part, the government took an obligation neither to enter contra zones, nor to deploy its armed forces nearby ceasefire territories. At the same time, the proposals contain a condition which obliges both sides not to seek military superiority in the period of ceasefire.

'Insurgents' Kill El Salvadoran Soldiers

LD180838 Moscow TASS in English 0825 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Havana February 18 TASS—By TASS correspondent Igor Psenichnikov:

Insurgents in El Salvador killed nine soldiers from the regular troops of the pro-American regime in the departments of Chalatenango, San Miguel and Morazan from April 14 to 16, the insurgents' radio station Venceremos reported.

A U.S.-made Army helicopter which was carrying ammunition to Army units operating near Azacualpa volcano was shot down in the Department of Cabanas by fighters from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) using small arms.

Parliamentary Delegation Departs for Caribbean

LD180919 Moscow TASS in English 0853 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 18 TASS—A group of Soviet MP's left Moscow for Caribbean countries on a good will mission today.

They are being led by Aleksandr Mokanu, a vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of the USSR.

It is the first time that Soviet parliamentarians will be visiting Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica to form useful contacts with colleagues in these countries, Mokanu said in a statement before their departure.

"We are going to meet with representatives of the governments, parliaments and public of these countries and exchange opinions on pressing international problems as dialogue is the only alternative to overcoming the mistrust, tension and threat of nuclear catastrophe existing in the world.

"We shall tell our hosts about the perestroyka (restructuring) drive under way in our country to speed up the social and economic development of Soviet society and about the Soviet Union's efforts to create a nuclear-free and non-violent world through political solutions to burning international and regional problems," Mokanu continued.

"It is with satisfaction that we note," the leader of the Soviet parliamentary delegation said, "that our countries are united by a common desire for equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation in many fields and for stronger peace and lower international tension."

"Parliament-to-parliament exchanges make a no small contribution to this noble cause and we hope that the visit will facilitate better mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and Caribbean countries," he added.

Political & Social

Gorbachev Replies to Christian Peace Conference

LD151809 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev sent a message to President of the Christian Peace Conference Bishop Karoly Toth. The message says:

"Esteemed Mr. Toth,

"Thank you and the leadership of the Christian Peace Conference for a message.

"I fully share your concern for the destiny of humanity, of the world civilization, your hopes for the prevention of its perishing, for preserving peace and life on earth.

"The Soviet Union's stand on matters of averting nuclear war is clear and unambiguous. Nuclear war cannot be a means of achieving political, economic, ideological or any other aims. If nuclear war breaks out, everything living on earth will be destroyed. In our age there is no, nor can there be, alternative to peace, to the pooling of the efforts of all people for the sake of life on earth.

"This is why the world public so clearly expresses support for the efforts aimed at the conclusion of a treaty on a 50-per cent cut in strategic offensive arms of the USSR and the USA.

"We view this as just the beginning. No less difficult tasks for the implementation of the idea of nuclear weapons free world advanced in the statement of January 15, 1986 are ahead. Remarkable is the fact that the wishes expressed by Christians the world over—to rid the globe of the scourge of nuclear arms by the year 2000—coincide with our program of stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear armaments by the end of this century.

"The effort toward safeguarding peace has long since stopped being the prerogative of statesmen. The public forces are playing an ever more important role in the struggle for peace, for disarmament, for environmental protection and solution of other global problems common to humanity. Your organization which represents many millions of Christians from all the continents is engaged in consistent activity to avert nuclear holocaust, to ensure that people discard swords and beat them into ploughs.

"I share your opinion about the common responsibility of all people of good will for the solution of global problems facing humanity and sincerely welcome the efforts of your organization aimed at safeguarding peace, and developing humanism, equitable, spiritual and moral values on earth. I wish the Christian Peace Conference great successes in this noble undertaking."

Text of Ligachev Speech on Cultural Issues

PM181043 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 7 Apr 88 p 2

[Speech by Ye.K. Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered at 4-5 April All-Union Conference on Developing People's Creativity in Moscow: "Vital Source of National Traditions"—boldface as published]

[Text] Esteemed Comrades!

Our discussion here is highly important. We are talking about people's creativity and independent artistic activity in all their diversity of form, genre, and content. And, therefore, we are talking about something without which Soviet people's spiritual life is inconceivable.

The obvious question is: **What is the overall assessment of work here?**

First, I should like to talk about the undoubted improvements that there have been, particularly of late. I think that they were all noted and assessed during the Second All-Union Festival of Independent Creative Activity held to mark the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution.

People's choirs from Voronezh, the northern RSFSR, and Belorussia and dance companies from the Ukraine, Moldavia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and the Central Asian republics are gaining increasing fame. New masterpieces have been produced by folk craftsmen—artistic metalwork in the Urals and Dagestan and woodcarving in Siberia and the Volga region. There is growing interest in folklore and traditional games. The song festivals in the Baltic republics and the colorful Georgian "Tbilisoba" festival are winning recognition and popularity. Amateur artistic activity is widely developed in the Soviet Army and Navy. Each year hundreds of amateur collectives from all the republics travel abroad on tour.

Much tasteful and talented work is being done on more modest scales—in villages and plant settlements, or simply in the open air, in streets, anywhere that people are able to organize meaningful, cheerful, and inventive leisure.

In brief, we are right to speak of the **gratifying distinguishing features which mark independent creative activity today.** Of course, they are no chance occurrence. The party's policy and the time of restructuring have provided unprecedentedly broad scope for the people to show their abilities and talents. Three years have passed since the great turnaround initiated by the CPSU Central Committee at the April (1985) Plenum and aimed at renewing our social life, and the products of this new course are evident everywhere. Including, of course, in the scale of the people's initiative, which is at the same time labor, sociopolitical, and artistic-creative initiative.

People's creativity and the rational use of leisure time help to mold collectivism, to consolidate socialist morality, to eradicate drunkenness, and to establish a sober way of life. The struggle against instances of immorality and social injustice must continue uninterrupted every kilometer of the way.

It is important to bear in mind that the present-day independent activity of the masses can be said to have a historical background. It is based on the great achievements of the past 70 years of the country's socialist development and the artistic traditions of all the peoples of the USSR.

There is now greatly increased interest in our way of life over the past 70 years. In the period of restructuring history is becoming more political than ever before. The responsibility for every word said about our past is increasing particularly now. At the Central Committee February (1988) Plenum, Comrade M.S. Gorbachev stressed the need for active participation by the people themselves in discussing the questions of our history and the inculcation among them of a correct historical consciousness.

There are truths which have become a firm part of the people's consciousness, and no one can abolish or denigrate them. First and foremost there is the general result of the socialist reorganization of life, the indisputable truth that it is socialism which transformed our motherland into a mighty industrial and kolkhoz state, which saved mankind from fascism, and which provided Soviet people with lasting social protection and confidence in the future. Attempts to belittle or distort what the Soviet people have done are inappropriate here.

But neither will society accept a bland representation of the path that we have traveled. There must be no attempts to embellish the past or to gloss over the utterly irreparable losses suffered during the years of the personality cult, when completely innocent people were killed. Some people long for the recent past when the phenomena of stagnation grew, when faith in cadres began to give way to total license, and when irresponsibility and abuse of power became widespread. The party says: There will be no return to the past. The guarantee of that is the irreversible process of the democratization of our society.

The following point should be emphasized particularly forcefully.

Socialism has greatly raised the standard of education and the culture of working people, has elevated people's tastes, has developed and deepened their sense of patriotism, and has taught them to cherish the valuable assets of international contact and the fraternity of the Soviet peoples.

It is on this reliable foundation that the edifice of Soviet culture has been built and stands firm. The past and the present come together in the present flowering of the people's independent creativity and the traditional and the modern merge and reappear in vivid new colors.

However, comrades, there are considerable grounds for criticism and self-criticism in this sphere of our social life, too. There are more than enough omissions and a good many unresolved problems. It is good that the report by S.A. Shalayev and speeches by conference participants have focused on those very issues.

As you know, the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and the party program emphasized the line of comprehensively developing the people's creative abilities, enriching the socialist way of life, and instilling in working people sound requirements and high aesthetic tastes. For that reason the people's creativity, which has a vital link with tradition and even with remote antiquity, must unfailingly keep pace with the times and take account of the most progressive needs and concepts and with all the conditions of modern life. Traditions mean keeping the fire burning, not allowing it to smolder into ashes.

How are we to mold in young people a sense of the artistic and how, at the same time, are we to combine the traditional and the modern, the classical and the innovative, in a precious fusion of true culture? It must be admitted that so far we have not managed to do that in the true sense. The situation is worrying. The public is alarmed. This point has been made here today. Reports are coming in from a number of places that the age-old crafts are dying out, folk music and song in cities and villages are disappearing, and clubs are empty.

Perhaps something new and more worthwhile has come along to replace them? It is partly true that in some places new forms of leisure organization are appearing. But unfortunately in many instances popular and classical art and independent creative activity have given way to forms of mass entertainment which are far from wholesome—this is particularly true of young people.

There is a fashion for noise which drowns out all melody and for dances which induce a state of frenzy in the dancers. It exists throughout the world, and throughout the world it gives rise to protest from people who are aesthetically developed and morally sound.

Claims that these music and dance crazes are "new" and "modern" are irrelevant. There's new and there's new.

I would remind you of V.I. Lenin's words, which are so topical they might have been said today: "The beautiful must be preserved, used as a model and as a basis, even if it is 'old.' Why should we turn away from the truly fine and reject its further development simply because it is 'old'? Why should we worship the new as though it were a god who must be obeyed simply because it is the 'new'? Lunacy, utter lunacy! There is a great deal of hypocrisy here and, of course, unconscious veneration of prevailing Western fashions."

Times change, of course. And the world in which we all live is much different from what it was, say, decades or even a few years ago. Mankind is following the path of ever-increasing cooperation and interdependence. This applies not only to the problems of international security and economic ties but also to spiritual life and artistic culture. Here, too, we can see how cultures penetrate and influence each other. Therefore the enrichment of national culture with all that is best in the world is an objective process but is not without conflicts.

In these conditions it is necessary to show increased attention to preserving the national identity of the people's creative activity and of socialist culture as a whole, a question which becomes particularly urgent in the context of our conversation.

It is right to put the question in these terms. The people's creative activity must be regarded as a life-giving source imparting strength and purity to everything it generates—up to and including the highest achievements of professional art. **The people's artistic creativity may rightly be regarded as the genetic stock of all spiritual life** which protects it from hideous mutations and distortion. That creativity must be comprehensively helped and relied upon without allowing the cultural environment, particularly its fundamental roots, to be corrupted. Popular and classical art serve as a reliable guard against penetration by bourgeois mass culture.

Unions of the artistic intelligentsia have a substantial contribution to make here. Their cooperation with the people's creative collectives is mutually beneficial.

The level of our people's education, information, and culture has risen and will continue to rise. To satisfy their intellectual and aesthetic needs they must communicate with one another and work with **authorities in the field of spiritual and material culture and with creative people.** That is a natural inclination.

The age-old tradition of our intelligentsia is to perform a selfless mission of enlightenment. Is that not relevant in our times, too? Service to the people in this sense is not only a political phenomenon but also a cultural and moral one which determines the nature of the true intellectual.

The Communist Party and the people highly appreciate the sponsorship work done for many decades now by figures from the world of literature and art.

I note with satisfaction that during the recent discussion of tasks in fulfilling the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum's decisions, the combined plenum of the boards of the USSR Union of Composers and the All-Union Music Society adopted an appeal to the country's creative unions and to all workers in the arts to join actively "in fundamentally improving the aesthetic education of the rising generation and to pool their efforts in this noble work, which is of tremendous significance for our motherland's future." Presumably this appeal will find wide support.

A search is under way for stable new and fruitful ties between professionals and amateurs in the creative world. On the initiative of the RSFSR Union of Theater Workers seminars and laboratories have been set up which are essentially creative-training workshops. Directors of RSFSR people's theaters go there to improve their skills.

There are many examples of this kind and they deserve every possible support.

Unfortunately it often happens that visits by well-known artists, writers, painters, and scientists to villages and cities are badly organized. This is intolerable. It is particularly important to improve planning in the propaganda of the country's cultural assets in the newly developed regions of the North, Siberia, and the Far East. Many young people are working there in difficult conditions and their lives must be made spiritually rich. A system and a 5-year plan are needed here.

I think that the question of the state of cultural sponsorship work deserves special examination by local party and soviet organs and trade union and Komsomol committees, the AUCCTU, the USSR Ministry of Culture, and creative unions and societies. What problems are there here? To be frank, the fact that we do not always know how to make correct and thrifty use of the experience that we have accumulated, still less make it a universal asset. This approach is wrong. We cannot begin from scratch all the time. Let us solicitously preserve and generously transmit everything of value which we have accumulated in the practice of cultural building and in developing professional and amateur art.

I believe that you will agree with me that the time has come to clarify the present-day role of cultural organizational centers. There is good reason for that.

First, in the countryside, worker settlements, and urban residential districts there is an ever-increasing need not only for venues for movies and concerts, which is what clubs and many culture centers most often are, but also for family leisure centers, places where people can meet and engage in artistic and technical creativity. In other words, the time has come for multipurpose leisure centers combining auditoriums with rooms for visitors and children, cafes, and various amateur associations. The modern club must have room for all these things—ranging from singing, acting, and simple interesting conversations through to facilities for design and construction. The attractive idea of cultural and sports complexes must be fully explored.

Second, the fact that the whole atmosphere in the club is determined by a small team most often consisting of the deputy leader and the artistic director has hampered development. Furthermore, everyone has to be an all-round expert (a jack of all trades). As a result many club institutions do not cope well with their tasks and people sometimes find them uninteresting.

The time has come to thoroughly introduce the principle of reporting into club work. I am not talking, of course, about generating pieces of paper describing the number and kind of events held. That is precisely the kind of reporting that needs to be cut back. No, the sort of reporting that needs to be comprehensively developed is different: Taking the form, say, of competitions and contests whose results are determined by workers and kolkhoz members themselves. I am certain that this will produce a double benefit. First, it provides yet another channel whereby working people are involved in managing club affairs. And second, it helps permanent staff members of clubs, who will have a keener sense of their responsibility to the people.

At the same time it is quite obvious that the **cadres of clubs and culture centers** are one of the most effective levers for increasing the people's creativity, particularly independent artistic activity. On the one hand, there are not enough specialists; on the other, too little is being done to create the conditions essential for their work and life.

It clearly makes sense to critically reexamine the prevailing system of training specialists for establishments concerned with the organization of working people's leisure. It is necessary to modernize it, gear it to new needs (specialists for amateur associations and cultural and sports complexes, organizers of technical creative activity, and so forth), substantially improve quality, and develop a system of continuous education and skill improvement.

In short, no innovation generated by the restructuring that is now becoming part of the country's life must be allowed to bypass the sociocultural sphere.

And third and last, we come to the material base of culture and recreation. The "leftover" principle in financing and constructing sociocultural facilities is being overcome, albeit with difficulty. As people are aware, the party Central Committee and the government have determined a specific program to develop creative unions' material base and the construction of concert halls, culture centers, clubs, and other buildings for shows. Everything now depends on local party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organs, on the determination and exactingness they demonstrate.

Unfortunately, the situation is not too good at the moment. Permits for the construction of club establishments, which were previously constantly requested in vain, have now been granted, but the results are nothing to write home about. Last year the plan for utilizing capital investments appropriated for these purposes was only 75 percent fulfilled in the country as a whole. The picture was even worse in the Uzbek, Moldavian, and Tajik SSR's, standing at 50-55 percent, and altogether poor in Kaliningrad and Belgorod Oblasts, with figures of 32-44 percent. The "Bugulmaneftemash" Association's Culture Complex in the Tatar ASSR has been under construction for 13 years, the rayon culture center in the city of Mytishchi, Moscow Oblast, for 12 years, and the "Stroyitel" Culture Complex in Volgodonsk, Rostov Oblast, since 1980. And there is an abundance of such "long-term construction projects."

The state will continue to appropriate considerable resources for the construction of cultural facilities. At the same time the USSR Gosplan and Gossnab and ministries and departments must really get down to **providing cultural establishments with modern technical facilities and equipment**. You are well aware of this from your daily work and will have been even more convinced of it after viewing the specially organized exhibition at the Exhibition of National Economic Achievements.

The exhibition gives grounds for serious reflection and conclusions. On the one hand, we see the talent of Soviet master craftsmen capable of creating marvellous folk instruments. On the other hand, one is distressed by the primitive standard of technical and aesthetic solutions arrived at when it comes, say, to acoustic or lighting equipment. It is desirable that creative organizations be involved in the development and acceptance of instruments and equipment for cultural establishments and artistic collectives.

An intersectorial program for the provision of technical facilities to cultural establishments for 1989-1995 has now been prepared with the participation of machine building and other ministries. Its aim is to boost production, expand the range of equipment, and improve products' technical and economic features.

This involves ensuring that the latest technical achievements—video equipment, stereo television, holography, compact disc players, computer game consoles, modern control panels, lighting equipment, and much else—are extensively introduced into clubs, culture complexes, libraries, museums, and theaters.

Let us now look at the **style and methods of managing the sphere of the people's creativity and ways of exercising party leadership of it**. There is a certain contradiction in the very formulation of the question: On the one hand, it is a question of the independent creative activity of the people while, on the other, it is clear that work organization, assistance to cadres, material support, and much else demanding active state and party aid are needed here.

Leading and managing the process of creativity by the people means above all helping and promoting it, creating conditions favorable to it, and not in any circumstance issuing commands. Excessive administration and imposing one's own tastes and predilections will only turn the utilization of free time into a tedious chore, depriving people of all intellectual and spiritual joy and extinguishing initiative.

We must seek to ensure that **democratic levers** operate fully in managing the people's creative activity. It is necessary for people, including young people, to feel that they are the masters of the club, culture center, or stadium and not to be "roped in" for events but to be real creators and organizers of interesting, healthy, and elevating leisure.

Party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol workers, leaders in the cultural sphere, and we all must persistently learn to work in the new conditions, to increase our competence, to get closer to people, and how to listen to their opinions. The Soviet people are richly talented. As is well known, talent cannot be taught, but how important it is to spot the spark within people in good time and help it develop into a bright flame!

Much that is interesting, albeit unusual and unaccustomed, is now taking place in the country's cultural life. The search for and establishment of new forms, content, and creativity must proceed within the framework of communist ideology and socialism.

Various asssociations—theater and music studios, ensembles, and groups that perform their own songs—are springing up in cities and countryside. Clearly, we should not dismiss them but, on the contrary, should go out to meet them and channel their initiative and enthusiasm productively. Let me give you an example. The state invests a considerable amount of money in restoring historical and cultural monuments. However, quite a few of them are still untouched. In that case why should a culture center, club, or other social center not set up a group or association whose members could in their spare time study monuments and carry out restoration and repair work? There are people willing to do so. I saw this for myself yet again when I was in Volgograd Oblast the other day during a discussion of the problem of preserving and restoring the ancient architectural works of northern Russia, monuments of our own and world culture.

The people's creative activity—artistic or technical—is not to be treated as third-rate. A patent misunderstanding has occurred when a plant employing thousands of workers only manages to set up one choir. It means that the the spiritual sphere is, to put it mildly, being undervalued.

I also want to talk about leading cadres. They are very busy and have enough worries. But it is very important that they and their families play an active part in the work of culture establishments, appear on stage, or at least are there with their own collectives. Special demands are placed on young leaders. They must in a real sense act as instigators.

Party ideological cadres and the news and propaganda media must pay more attention to the people's independent creative activity. Lecturing, say, is regarded as ideological work. And indeed it is. But independent artistic activity is sometimes regarded as mere diversion and no more. However, what we are talking about here is a most important part of the whole spiritual life of our people, that is to say, it is ideological work. Furthermore it is political work. Consequently it demands the personal attention of party committee secretaries.

I would advise all party workers to ponder the actual meaning of the words "people's creativity." The meaning is a profound one. How is it possible to ignore collectives which directly express the creative energy, spiritual needs, and aesthetic tastes of the people? Some people might also object that there is not enough time. To which I would reply that there has to be enough time! **It is necessary to learn how to mix with people not only when they are at work but also when they are relaxing.**

As was remarked at the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum, the party must set the tone for all educational work, it must not limit itself to urging its improvement but must really direct and help improve its standard. As a political party, we do not, of course, intend to regulate the style of clothes or lay down musical taste. But precisely as a political party we must and will continue to uphold certain philosophical, moral, and aesthetic principles which accord with our communist notions on the appropriate spiritual makeup of a citizen of Soviet socialist society.

The leaders of amateur choirs, ensembles, orchestras, and drama studios bear great responsibility for the ideological and artistic standards of their programs and performances. Our own and foreign classics, folklore, and the best works of contemporary authors must be assimilated more boldly. The role of all those engaged in assessing amateur creative work and determining the scale of its circulation is no less responsible. The Melodiya company could do much more than at present to publicize the best examples of it. The demands made on television, radio, and the other mass news media are high here.

The artistic works of young people should be the daily concern of party, soviet, and Komsomol organs and cultural and educational establishments. Here it is extremely important that every republic expand its musical training and education base, particularly in the school and within the family. It is a good thing that this question is being aired here, at the conference, in a thorough and concerned way.

In speaking about the leadership of the sphere of culture, the independent creative activity of the people, and their leisure it is necessary to recognize that departmentalism, which reduces the efficiency with which culture centers, clubs, and sports facilities are used, has simply **not been overcome**.

Even in a small rural or settlement club there are two and sometimes even three masters: the Ministry of Culture, the trade unions, and the State Committee for Cinematography. It is at local level, that is, at the level of the rayon or oblast, that you must look for and find without fail a firm alliance between the organs of culture, cinema, and sports. It would clearly be beneficial to combine the ispolkom Culture Department and Committee for Physical Culture and Sports. Other management organs must also be carefully analyzed, some links combined or amalgamated and superfluous ones eliminated altogether. Managerial functions must increasingly be devolved to local level, to actual working people.

Comrades, I am certain that we all appreciate that the development of the people's creativity and the multifaceted independent activity of the working masses forms a very important integral part of the overall transformation work under way in the country. Restructuring is a nationwide cause, and it naturally includes disclosing all the talent and abilities possessed by Soviet people and their all-around involvement in the great work of renewing socialist society.

We are restructuring the economy. We are organizing work in the social sphere in a new way, truly focusing on people and their vital needs. But nothing can replace or diminish the importance of the tasks being tackled in the sphere of the spiritual and moral purification and edification of our entire social life and every Soviet person. And here you find yourselves in the front line.

I should like to conclude with the following:

The Third All-Union Festival of Independent Creative Activity by the People is beginning. May it become for you a time of most energetic action and bold quest. The festival is a kind of celebration and culmination of your activity. But do not forget that its success is decided not during the actual festive event itself but by daily, painstaking work with people.

The party is counting on you here. For that reason, I repeat, you are advancing our common cause of restructuring by your efforts. And your efforts are irreplaceable. Do you remember the words of Mayakovsky? He said that an artistic image penetrates to the innermost recesses of the human heart, which cannot be reached by any other means. And it is now essential for us that working people and the people involve themselves in restructuring with all their heart and soul, with no holding back.

Politburo Members Address CPSU Study Courses

PM180853 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Cadres Training"]

[Text] A two-stream training course for gorispolkom chairmen from republic, kray, and oblast centers and for first secretaries of union republic Komsomol central committees and Komsomol kraykoms and obkoms has ended at the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences Institute for Enhancing the Qualifications of Leading Party, Soviet, and Ideological Cadres.

The study sessions covered topical questions of Marxist-Leninist theory and CPSU policy in the light of decisions by the 27th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. Attention focused mainly on questions of improving the style, forms, and methods of work by city soviets and their ispolkoms and of Komsomol committees under the conditions of restructuring, the democratization of all aspects of life, the expansion of glasnost, the affirmation of an atmosphere of exactingness, unity of words and deeds, and development of criticism and self-criticism, the open formation of elected organs, and the solution of problems of working people's class, international, and patriotic education.

Emphasis was placed on the need to strictly observe the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association) under the conditions of expanding self-management by labor collectives and the transition of most enterprises to full economic accountability [khozraschet] and self-financing.

There was an examination of specific ways of fulfilling the tasks outlined in the speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum and in the plenum resolution for the implementation of radical economic reform, the improvement of the rising generation's education and upbringing, the amelioration of ideological and political education work, the enhancement of the role of the human factor, the affirmation of social justice, and a sharp turnabout by aktiv members and all Communists to face the ideological content of restructuring. There was detailed discussion of tasks concerning the improvement of cadres work and preparations for the 19th all-union party conference.

Gorispolkom chairmen from republic, kray, and oblast centers exchanged experiences in work to elaborate and implement plans for the socioeconomic development of cities, to ensure a balanced combination of sectorial and territorial interests, to implement targeted comprehensive programs aimed at the creation of developed infrastructure in cities, to organize trade, public catering, cooperative and individual activity, health care, and consumer and municipal services, to develop transport and housing construction and allocation, to consolidate the material and technical base of cultural institutions, and to protect the environment in the light of the party's present-day demands for the fuller satisfaction of the population's requirements and needs.

The first secretaries of union republic Komsomol central committees and of Komsomol kraykoms and obkoms analyzed progress in the fulfillment of the 20th Komsomol Congress decisions and ways for their further implementation. Particular attention was given to questions of creating conditions for the broad development of initiative by young people, Komsomol members, and Komsomol organizations, the democratization of intra-Komsomol life, and the enhancement of Komsomol organizations' influence on all aspects of young people's life, labor, and leisure. They studied topical questions concerning the organizational-political consolidation of Komsomol organizations, the restructuring of the Komsomol's financial-economic activity, and the improvement of leadership of the activity of Young Pioneers' organizations and young people's mass media.

Those attending the courses were addressed by N.N.Slyunkov and A.N. Yakovlev, members of the Politburo and secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee; V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; A.G. Melnikov and N.A. Stashenkov, chiefs of CPSU Central Committee departments; V.I. Mironenko, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Yu.I. Mordvintsev, G.K. Kryuchkov, and M.I. Polyakov, deputy chiefs of CPSU Central Committee departments; A.A. Babenko, A.V. Vlasov, M.V. Gramov, V.G. Zakharov, K.Z. Terekh, and G.A. Yagodin, USSR ministers and chairmen of USSR state committees; RSFSR Minister I.G. Dudenkov; R.G. Yanovskiy, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and rector of the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences; Academician L.I. Abalkin; senior officials from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR and RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidiums, the USSR and RSFSR Councils of Ministers, ministries, and departments; Komsomol Central Committee secretaries; scientists; and journalists.

G.P. Razumovskiy, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met with the first secretaries of union republic Komsomol central committees and of Komsomol kraykoms and obkoms at the Komsomol Central Committee.

V.S. Shevchenko, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; M.V. Kovalev, chairman of the Belorussian Council of Ministers; V.T. Saykin, V.Ya. Khodyrev, and V.A. Zgurskiy, chairmen of the Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev Gorispolkoms respectively; and others spoke on questions concerning the activity of soviets of people's deputies in the conditions of restructuring and radical reform of economic management. Field trips were organized in Moscow, the Belorussian and Latvian SSR's, and Moscow, Leningrad, Orel, and Donetsk Oblasts.

Slyunkov, Dolgikh Address Engineering Conference

LD151326 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] A conference was held in the CPSU Central Committee today on issues relating to providing high-quality modern equipment for the power engineering industry. Taking part in it were scientists and designers; heads of ministries and central departments; secretaries of the Central Committees of the communist parties of the union republics, party rayon, and oblast committees; and senior officials of the staff of the CPSU Central Committee, Council of Ministers, and the country's People's Control Committee.

Comrade Slyunkov opened the conference. Reports were heard from Comrades Shcherbina and Silayev.

Comrade Dolgikh, speaking at the conference, stressed that the situation remains strained in electric power engineering. Now our electric power engineering is entering into a special, more difficult and responsible stage of development. It is essential to sharply increase the commissioning of new power capacities and at the same time to carry out reconstruction and modernization of electric power stations and accomplish major measures in the sphere of energy-saving and nature protection.

There is a great deal yet to be done on further developing and ensuring guaranteed reliability of atomic power engineering. Attention to matters concerning the development of hydro-power engineering must be stepped up. Supplies of high-quality modern equipment and other technology must be increased.

Comrade Slyunkov delivered the concluding address at the conference. He pointed out that the matters under discussion are directly related to the implementation of the CPSU Central Committee decision of 10 March 1988. This concerns the accelerated development of the country's power engineering industry and enhancing the reliability of power supplies. The main attention should be focused on raising the technical level and quality of equipment and reducing the time between developing new technology and putting it into use.

Comrade Slyunkov dwelled upon tasks relating to economizing on fuel and power resources. He pointed out in conclusion that we have sufficient forces and potential to fulfil the power engineering program. Only a high level of awareness, organization, discipline, and skill and the desire to keep step with restructuring are required.

Dolgikh Attends Inventors' Society Congress

LD141141 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] The Seventh Congress of the All-Union Society of Inventors and Rationalizers opened in the Great Kremlin Palace today. Comrades Dolgikh, Talyzin, Baklanov; Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU; Mironenko, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; senior staff of the Party Central Committee; and heads of a number of ministries and departments, scientists and production front-rankers are in the presidium. Guests from the fraternal socialist and other countries, and representatives of international organizations are present at the congress. Tyurin, chairman of the council, delivered a report on the work of the Central Council of the society.

Talyzin, Biryukova Present

LD160601 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The seventh congress of the All-Union Society of Inventors and Improvers [ASI] continues in the Great Kremlin Palace in Moscow. Taking part in its work today were Comrades Talyzin, Baklanov, and Biryukova. In the 30 years of its existence the ASI has been transformed into the biggest nationwide technical organization in the country, counting over 14 million people in its ranks. Half of them are the front-ranking section of the working class. But, assessing what has been achieved on its merits, the innovators noted at their forum that negative trends have been observed recently in the work of inventors and improvers. [passage omitted]

Congress Concludes

LD161457 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] The congress of the All-Union Society of Innovators and Rationalizers ended in the Kremlin today. On the final day of the forum's work, delegates continued their discussion of the report of the central council of the society and the draft of the new edition of its regulations. Comrades Dolgikh, Talyzin, and Baklanov took part in the work of the final day of the congress.

Central Committee Slogans for May Day 1988

PM171653 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

["CPSU Central Committee Slogans for 1 May 1988"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] 1. Long live 1 May—the day of working people's international solidarity!

2. Proletarians of all countries, unite!

3. May the great revolutionary teaching of Marx-Engels-Lenin endure and develop for ever!

4. The love of all the people and eternal glory to the Leninist Bolsheviks, party, war, and labor veterans, and all fighters for the triumph of socialism and the freedom and independence of our homeland!

5. Comrades! Devote all your energies to restructuring, the democratization of society, and radical economic reform!

6. Communists! Resolutely increase the militancy of party organizations! Strengthen the party's prestige by your personal example and persistent work for the people's benefit! Struggle to assert the revolutionary principles of restructuring!

7. Communists! Working people of the Soviet Union! Forcefully implement the 27th CPSU Congress line! Let us mark the 19th all-union party conference with labor successes for the motherland's benefit!

8. Working people of the Land of the Soviets! Reinforce the socialist homeland's economic might! Assert everywhere the principle "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his labor"!

9. Citizens of the USSR! Tirelessly reinforce the union and fraternity of free peoples in a free country—the source of our great, multinational motherland's strength!

10. Long live Soviet patriotism, which combines the national pride and property of each people with the internationalism of a socialist society!

11. Workers and kolkhoz members! Boldly assimilate new methods of management and progressive forms of labor organization and incentives! Master leading experience and economic knowledge!

12. Citizens of the Soviet Union! Increase mutual demandingness and individual responsibility and develop criticism and self-criticism, democracy and glasnost!

13. Working people! Resolutely assert social self-management and struggle against bureacracy and conservatism, consumerism and parasitism!

14. Agro-industrial complex workers! Struggle energetically for the fulfillment of the Food Program! Increase production efficiency on the basis of consistent cooperation and economic accountability!

15. Comrades! Do everything possible to support people who are creative, questing, and enterprising and who are not afraid of dfficulties for the sake of achieving socialism's aims!

16. Soviet scientists, designers, and inventors! Strive for innovative solutions to scientific-technical problems to secure accelerated development of the economy, science, and technology and the improvement of domestic production to meet the highest world standards!

17. Soviet trade unions! Defend the working people's interests! Strive to accelerate socioeconomic development and reinforce the social trend in economic decisions!

18. Komsomol members! Young men and women! Master the legacy of great Lenin! Learn to work conscientiously and with high efficiency! Join energetically in active political life!

19. Secondary and higher educational personnel! Creatively implement the restructuring of education! Raise a younger generation that is educated, cultured, and devoted to the ideals of socialism! Develop in young men and women initiative and a thirst for knowledge and information!

20. Cultural figures, writers, and artists! Enrich socialism's spiritual potential and take an active part in the renewal of all aspects of society's life!

21. Soviet soldiers! Tirelessly increase combat readiness, improve your skills, and reinforce military discipline! Reliably and vigilantly defend socialism's gains and the Soviet people's peaceful, creative labor!

22. Citizens of the USSR! Show daily concern for the protection of the environment! Use natural resources sensibly!

23. May Day greetings to the communist and workers' parties!

24. Peoples of the socialist countries! May our countries' fraternal cooperation deepen and strengthen for the sake of socialism and peace!

25. Peoples of the world! Let us step up the struggle for a real process of normalizing the international situation, for the radical limitation and reduction of nuclear, chemical, and conventional arms! Let us not permit the militarization of space!

26. May war be removed from the life of mankind!

27. Peoples of all countries! Let us step up the struggle for freedom of social and political choice for every people and every country!

28. Peoples of Europe! We will actively implement the provisions of the Helsinki agreements and strengthen confidence and cooperation among countries!

29. Ardent greetings to fighters against imperialist exploitation, oppression, and neocolonialism, for freedom and independence!

30. Long live the USSR's innovative foreign policy—a policy of creating a nuclear-free and nonviolent world and pursuing active international cooperation!

Party Session, Role of Press, Glasnost Viewed

AU151011 Budapest MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian No 15 8 Apr 88 p 7

[Interviews with Otto Latsis, deputy chief editor of KOMMUNIST, and Aleksey Kozlovskiy, head of a section of the CPSU Central Committee Department of Agitation and Propaganda, by Ferenc Varnai in Moscow: "A Clear Image!—The Guarantee of Restructuring—The Role of the Press"; date not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The 19th CPSU Conference will open on 28 June, and it will sum up the experiences of the first 3 years of restructuring and set out future tasks. The work is currently only in its preparatory phase; therefore, Otto Latsis stressed that he can speak only about his own opinion.

One-Party System [subhead]

[Varnai] How is the preparation for the party conference progressing?

[Latsis] The preparation is currently in the phase of debates. A free and informal exchange of views is currently under way in the press and, at the same time, drafts are being prepared that include the various proposals.

[Varnai] What are the main directions in which the conference is expected to go?

[Latsis] First: The experiments on restructuring all areas of our life have been going on for 3 years. However, this will be a long process. This is an extremely complex task, and we are facing a lot of danger during its implementation. This process started from above, and the party is the main driving force behind it. No other organization could guarantee that we would not abandon this process, that we would carry out the entire process, and that, amidst the numerous contradictory and particular interests, we would be able to work out and implement a correct strategy. It is the task of the coming party conference to make sure that the party that initiated this restructuring process also provides the major guarantees for this process.

Second: We intend to carefully counterbalance the weaknesses inherent in the one-party system by continuing our traditional one-party system. The one-party system is not a principled requirement of socialism; each country must decide alone concerning this issue, by evaluating its own situation. We had no bourgeois parliamentarism prior to the 1917 Revolution, and a multiple party system existed in our country only for a few months following the revolution of February 1917. After the October Revolution, the left-wing Socialist Revolutionary Party that was part of the government joined the counterrevolutionary forces in 1918 and participated in the ensuing armed struggle on the side of the Western powers, and thus this party also faded away during the civil war. Therefore, a multiple party system would be foreign to us. We are aware that the one-party system has its shortcomings: It is too centralized and has more consensus than necessary, but I am convinced that its fundamental weaknesses derived from the distortions and illegal acts committed by Stalin, rather than from the conditions of the one-party system. We will deal firmly with illegal acts, and we intend to reduce the shortcomings of the one-party system to a minimum.

The one-party system has far from exhausted its potential. First of all, it must be freed from becoming too entwined with the state, and the state has taken up the operative management of the economy. Too little energy was left for the party to operate as a real vanguard of society which works out the new guidelines of social progress and coordinates the activity to implement these guidelines, not only in the center but also in all areas of life, by means of its more than 19 million members and, of course, with the help of several million experts, scientists, and technical leaders. We must search for ways to choose from among the possible reform processes and use them to separate the party and the state, and the party and the economy. The most important task facing the party is to concentrate on strategic tasks and represent the overall interests of society.

Third: We must work out an adequate mechanism of ensuring the new generation of leaders, so that the leaders the country and party will have in the future are not a matter of chance, and that continuity and change will not be so painful. We must also institute changes in the relations between the elected organs of the party and the party apparatus because the latter has acquired an exaggerated role in working out policy and practical tasks.

Finally: Since we are in the middle of implementing the current 5-year plan, the party conference will obviously discuss the progress of the economic management reform in practice and the tasks ahead.

Responsibility [subhead]

[Varnai] In your opinion, what is the role of the press in the restructuring process?

[Latsis] Seemingly, nothing has changed, and the same newspapers and media continue to operate; in practice, however, their tone has changed radically, and the population supports the need for change. Ill-considered and stupid publications continue to appear, of course, and so do mistakes; attention is drawn to these mistakes, but nobody has ever been fired for his mistake.

One could say that the press is kept on a long leash. This, however, requires increased responsibility, all the more so because it is easier to write critical articles and talk about blank spots than to formulate realistic tasks and thoroughly clarify events.

There are enemies of socialism in our country, too, but they are very few and do not take a stand openly. There are also conservative people who do not take an open stand against restructuring because this is the party's policy, but who try to hinder its implementation. There are also people who go too far, and nothing is enough for them. The problem does not lie in the fact that the press now publishes different opinions; the important thing is to comment on these opinions and, if necessary, we should also debate by using arguments. The editorial staff of various newspapers should make the image they show clear, so that the readers know what they represent.

Issues concerning the press were discussed also in the interview conducted with Aleksey Kozlovskiy:

[Varnai] What is your opinion about the activity of the press?

[Kozlovskiy] We consider it a great achievement that the voice of people who represent realistic positions has gained ground in our press, people who are ready to act, encourage the correction of shortcomings, initiate new socialist solutions, and who intend to develop the socialist lifestyle and the democratic atmosphere. However, along with opposition to stagnation and bureaucracy, unfounded, ill-considered, and even demagogic and disturbing articles also appear.

The Limits to Glasnost [Subhead]

[Varnai] Are there limits to glasnost?

[Kozlovskiy] Yes, there are: the Soviet Constitution and the laws in force. We will not allow the application of glasnost to weaken the foundations of socialism through people who take a stand on behalf of the "people," on behalf of "one generation," but, who in reality represent only themselves. We differentiate between an honest desire to help and dishonest speculation. The latter is unable to provide a real sensation or alternative programs. Quite a few editorial staffs prove to be weak. They do not require journalists to write articles that stand the test of facts.

We are aware of all this and follow it with attention, but we do not find it dramatic if a critic thinks too much of a book or a play. We believe that all this will not shake the pillars of socialism. We consider it important to provide answers and to correct mistakes rather than ban a publication.

[Varnai] How will glasnost continue?

[Kozlovskiy] The main task facing the coming 19th CPSU Conference is to further strengthen democracy. We believe that glasnost will have to strengthen precisely this process. In intending to reveal the weaknesses and tragic events of our history, we are guided by the requirement to learn our lessons. We also need this in the education of the new generation. However, there are people who present the 70 years of Soviet power only as a series of mistakes. If, however, everything had been only mistakes and crimes, how could the Soviet Union have become a power that the world takes so seriously? It is true that we have caused a lot of damage to ourselves, but we have also achieved great results. In spite of all our deficiencies, we have made such development, and we have created social guarantees that have forced even the capitalist world to take similar steps.

Instead of revealing and analyzing the facts in detail, those who see only mistakes mostly generalize about certain existing shortcomings and mistakes. The party leadership is not concerned about these. The wave of sensationalism will pass. In the meantime, we strive to help in making it possible to differentiate between things that contribute to socialist development and things that hinder it. We urge scientists, historians, and experts who have a thorough knowledge of the facts and sources, and who are able to write succinct newspaper articles, to take a stand. This was the case when a group of historians, who were well aware of the original facts, took issue with the opinions of Satrov's play that had led to mistaken conclusions, and encouraged readers to think critically about the positions taken by the play in question. The great interest in our history shown by the people and by the young people urged the Central Committee to establish a separate journal. The new journal, RODINA [Homeland] will appear in the second half of the current year and will assist in the patriotic and internationalist education of the people.

Relations of Partnership [subhead]

[Varnai] What do you mean by partnership relations with the press?

[Kozlovskiy] This means that the leaders of the party have regular, informal, and genuine exchanges of views with the representatives of the press. They inform and also learn.

Chernobyl Radiation Zone Militia Patrols Formed

LD160820 Moscow TASS in English 0748 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Chernobyl April 16 TASS—TASS special correspondent Ivan Kirillov reports:

It has been decided to set up a new system of militia patrols to maintain public order in Chernobyl. Aleksey Demchenyuk, deputy head of the Interior Department of the Kiev region, told TASS that the patrols are assigned the task of keeping watch over the 30-kilometer enhanced radiation zone which is adjacent immediately to the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

The accident at the station's fourth power-generating unit in April 1986 contaminated the territory nearest to the nuclear power station. The residents of almost 180 settlements in that zone were urgently evacuated. Over 21,000 houses and 1,500 flats were built for them in other parts of the Ukraine. They received upwards of 900 million rubles in various compensations and priveleges. The effective decontamination measures made it possible to reduce substantially the radiation level. In the zone, however, it is somewhat higher as compared to ordinary radiation reading.

All this disregarding, some of the people who lived there prior to 1986 try to return to their houses and farms by going round the passing posts, Demchenyuk said. These are mostly elderly people to whom it is psychologically difficult to settle in a new place. Our key task is to prevent the appearance in the health-hazardous zone of people not employed at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, he said.

Demchenyuk said that about a hundred people who resided there earlier have already sneaked into the zone. "We do not have either a moral or legal right today to force them to leave the zone. Militiamen not only discharge their immediate functions to maintain public order but also help elderly people to cut fire-wood, repair houses and deliver food," he said.

According to the Interior Ministry figures, not a single grave crime was committed in the zone in the last two years. There were several cases involving theft of property left in the houses of the evacuees. For instance, there were attempts to take out of the zone the icons of the 17-18th centuries robbed by criminals in villages. "The radiation level of these cultural treasures exceeds somewhat the permitted radiation standard, therefore, the scientists and restorers summoned to Chernobyl now work on how to decontaminate and preserve them, Demchenyuk said.

Touching on the issue of the supposed involvement of prisoners in the work in most hazardous areas of the nuclear power station, the deputy head of the Interior Department of the Kiev region said that there is not a single prisoner in the zone and neither had been [as received]. Qualified specialists were selected for the work to deal with the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. They are rotated in and out of the area each 15 and 20 days.

Chernobyl Emissions Now 10 Percent of Norm

LD151259 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0930 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Chernoby 15 April—TASS correspondent Ivan Kirillov reports:

Periodic maintenance on the first unit began today at the Chernobyl Atomic Power Station situated 120 km north of Ukraine's capital, Kiev. This was reported to a TASS correspondent by Andrey Chekalov, deputy chief engineer of the "Kombinat" Production Association, which since 1986 has been involved with all aspects of life and work in the AES zone.

According to Chekalov, following the accident at the fourth unit in April 1986, the three remaining units have to date already produced more than 21,000 million kwh of electricity. The reactors have worked without malfunctions to an average of 75 percent of their maximum capacity. Effective decontamination work after blasts of steam at the fourth unit which caused an outburst of radioactivity has ensured normal work conditions for personnel at neighboring reactors.

"At the first power unit, the level of radiation today is about 0.5 milliroentgens per hour; at the second it fluctuates from 3 to 7 milliroentgens per hour. The level of saturation of the air on the territory of the AES with radioactive dust amounts to practically 10 percent of the permitted norms for atomic stations," Chekalov said.

Concerning the damaged reactor, he reported that 95 percent of the nuclear fuel was concentrated in its shaft and also in the areas under the reactor and in the central reactor hall. All of this was reliably covered up by the "sarcophagus," a very complicated engineering construction the height of a 20-storey building which can withtand earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. The function of the sarcophagus is not only to isolate the damaged reactor. It holds monitoring and measuring apparatus to investigate its state. The analysis of the data regularly received from the many transducers installed in the covered unit makes it possible to have a detailed knowledge of the nature of the nuclear fuel remnants and also to predict the processes occurring within the sarcophagus.

The sarcophagus itself is not totally hermetically sealed. The remnants of nuclear fuel are cooled by the outside air. "This does not mean that air contaminated with radioactive materials gets into the atmosphere," Andrey Chekalov said. He explained that after cooling the fuel by means of a natural flow of air, extractor ventilators are used to direct their air into the atmosphere via special multistage filters. Today the average annual emission of radioactive fission products into the environment from the sarcophagus is 10 times lower than at nuclear reactors currently operating in the world.

"One cannot halt progress. Atomic power stations are not only economically advantageous. Compared with other types of power stations they cause considerably less harm to nature," Andrey Chekalov said. "Accidents in the atomic power industry happen only rarely. The measures taken to eliminate the consequences of the Chernoby accident convince one that the atom can be controlled and can serve mankind reliably."

Ukraine Government Discusses Ecology Problems

AU131342 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 5 Apr 88 p 3

[RATAU report: "Let Us Build Facilities That Protect Nature in Time"]

[Text] Protection of the environment and the rational utilization of natural resources is one of the most important social tasks. Questions of ensuring appropriate ecological conditions are particularly topical in our republic in which many enterprises of various national economic branches are concentrated. The republic's ministries, departments, soviets of people's deputies, and economic leaders bear full responsibility for this matter. This was emphasized at a conference held recently in the headquarters of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers, with the participation of leaders of the republic's Gosplan, Ministry of Construction, Gosagroprom, Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, Ministry of Housing and Municipal Services, and of other ministries and departments, and oblispolkom deputy chairmen, and responsible functionaries of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers. The conference examined the progress made in the republic in constructing facilities for protecting nature in light of the requirements set forth in the decision adopted by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on radical restructuring in protecting nature in the country. A report was delivered by D.I. Protsenko, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Committee for the Protection of Nature.

It was noted that capital investments allocated for the protection of nature in the republic were increasing. In the 11th 5-year period and in the 2 years of the 12th 5-year period, more than R11 billion were spent for this purpose, including R3 billion of state capital investments. Recirculated water supply systems with a total daily capacity exceeding 40 million cubic meters were put into operation. This made it possible to purify 98 percent of sewage and to bring the recirculated supply of water in industry to 81 percent of the total. Since 1980 the discharge of sewage has been almost halved. Equipment for collecting and neutralizing harmful substances from exhaust gases has made it possible to stabilize the volumes of such discharges into the atmosphere, despite a significant increase in industrial production.

At the same time, the verification proves that the measures taken are still insufficient. In many regions of the republic the ecological situation continues to be complex. The main causes of this lie in the unsatisfactory progress in constructing facilities for the protection of nature, and in the inadequate exploitation of the purifying equipment available. In the 2 years of the current 5-year period, the republic's building organizations fell short of the targets for utilizing state capital investments by more than R91 million. The largest shortfalls occurred in Nikolayev, Dnepropetrovsk, Cherkassy, Donetsk, and Kirovograd Oblasts.

Administrative and economic leaders who do not care about the protection of water resources and who do not ensure that funds for these purposes are utilized in an effective way were subjected to sharp criticism. For example, for 19 years running the "Nikolayevstroy" trust of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Construction has been building purifying facilities in Nikolayev. The trust failed to utilize the 1987 allocations, and overstepped the deadline that had been fixed for putting facilities into service in the first quarter of 1988. The construction of purifying facilities at the Voznesensk tanning association by the "Voznesenskstroy" trust of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Construction is threated with failure. In the past 8 years, the state capital investments annually allocated for the protection of nature in Kirovograd Oblast were not utilized even once.

It was pointed out at the conference that responsibility for the unsatisfactory situation in constructing facilities for the protection of nature, should be borne primarily by leaders of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Construction, Gosagroprom, and other construction organizations. The attention of the Ukrainian SSR Gosagroprom was drawn to the shortcomings in storing and utilizing means for introducing chemicals in agriculture: In most oblasts there are too few storage facilities, and at the same time the plans for their construction are being systematically underfulfilled.

In settling ecological problems, local soviets have to adhere to principles and to preclude a departmental attitude. But this practice is far from being ubiquitous. For example, the new capacities built and put into operation—with the consent of local administrative organs—by the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy at Dnepropetrovsk Oblast coke and chemical plants lack facilities for the protection of nature.

Ministers V.P. Salo, V.I. Cherep, V.N. Tkach, and V.D. Ploshchenko fell short of the planned targets for the construction and commissioning of facilities for the protection of nature, and have been strictly warned. They have been instructed to examine the situation in the field, and to ensure that facilities are put into service on schedule in 1988. Measures have been determined to provide all projects with equipment and material-technical resources within deadlines accorded with contracting organizations. It was emphasized that the commissioning of facilities for protecting the nature on schedule had to be regarded as a matter of paramount importance.

The conference was addressed by Ye.V. Kachalovskiy, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Tajik Premier on Headway in Employment Problems

LD150939 Moscow TASS in English 0852 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Dushanbe April 15 Tass—Eighty thousand people from among previously unoccupied population have joined social production in Tajikistan, the republic's statistical centre reported.

"This is a definite headway in the solution of the complex problem which originated over the past years as a result of stagnant phenomena in the economy", Izatulla Khayeyev, chairman of Tajikistan's Council of Ministers, has told a TASS correspondent. A high birth rate has been keeping on in the republic for many years now. However, the population increase was not accompanied by new job opportunities.

"Emphasis was previously made on an increase in volume indicators of production without due regard for its social structure", Khayeyev said.

Reckoned here as unoccupied are predominantly rural dwellers who cultivate their small holdings. Two years ago their position gave rise to a keen discussion which resulted in the elaboration of a governmental program to increase employment.

"We attach a great importance to it", the head of the republic's government went on to say. "Over the two years, as was planned, various enterprises have opened about 100 branches in the countryside, employing mainly women while men found jobs in new orchards and vineyards which are being established with a view to doubling the gathering of fruit."

It has been decided to continue to adhere to the two directions in raising employment. These do not require migration of people to towns, and ensure a rapid rise in industrial and agricultural production. This does not mean a renunciation of further industrial development. Big power stations, non-ferrous metallurgy and chemical industry facilities are under construction. The emergence of new job opportunities is also associated here with the development of the cooperative movement.

"Unfortunately, the outmoded views of the social aspects of the economy are being overcome slowly", Khayeyev said. He described as a sad paradox the circumstance that ten thousand jobs remain vacant in construction at a time when there is a surplus of spare hands. This is accounted for by the fact that the building organisations do not provide people with housing. In this connection the government makes more exacting demands upon managers at all levels for them to ensure the implementation of the employment raising program.

Tajik Presidium Receives Tatar Representatives

LD150908 Dushanbe Domestic Service in Tajik 1600 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Talks were held with representatives of the Crimean Tatars in the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Leaders of Soviet bodies spoke on measures which have been taken in accordance with petitions and verbal demands of the Crimean Tatar people. During the talks views were exchanged in a free atmosphere on a range of problems which have previously been reported in the union press. Some representatives expressed dissatisfaction with the slow solution of the problems.

It was stated that the republican working commission, since its establishment in Leninabad, Kurgan-Tyube, and Dushanbe, has received 3,000 Crimean Tatars. Hundreds of letters and petitions were assessed. The working commission assessed all (?received) petitions and demands, and those proposals which should be solved in the localities were sent to local organs for discussion [words indistinct]. The commission was informed that the republican party and soviet organs have taken measures to satisfy the social and culturl demands of the Crimean Tatars who are residing in Tajikistan.

During the talks views were expressed that the [words indistinct] issues of the Crimean Tatars will be fully solved in conjunction with the tasks of restructuring, further democratization of society, and expansion of friendship among the masses and in the interests of our state and people. Present at the talks were Dedov, vice chairman of the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and other officials of the Presidium.

Article Examines Problem of Nationalities

PM131403 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 14, 3 Apr 88 p 10

[Timur Pulatov article: "Running Ahead of Cart. Reflections on Inter-National Problems"]

[Text] Even today the heart aches when I think about the Alma-Ata events of December 1986, that cold and sombre December which made all of us shudder, like during the Tashkent earthquake. Then we witnessed similar events in the Baltic Republics and Nagorno-Karabakh. All this accumulated to create the impression that international relations were facing a highly complicated problem. Had our ideological institutions not lost the habit of forecasting possible problems and seeing them at the initial stage, it would have been possible to remove the tension accumulating for years in some republics. A prerequisite for this was removal of the abstract schemes and self-assuring and self-justifying dogmas which piled up during the Brezhnev period. Everything was radiant and ostentatiously festive. Only toasts, the next more glorious than the last, were proposed at feasts. As proof that the national question in the USSR had been "finally solved" statistics were given not from the spiritual sphere but from everyday life: the number of marriages between various ethnic groups, the number of multilingual people in a city or workers in a given collective.

The recent events in Nagorno-Karabakh showed again the helplessness of those who were only asking for relations between various nationalities to be studied. Instead of analyzing the causes behind the events, there were attempts to reduce the problem to everyday requirements. I read in papers: "For many years people of different nationalities have been working side by side at our enterprise.... From time immemorial Azerbaijanians, Armenians, Russians, Ukrainians and others have been living in our district as a friendly and united family" and so on, in the same spirit as many years ago.

The Uzbek republic also responded in the same way when the problem of the Crimean Tatars became front-page news again. In Central Asia we have been living and working together for more than 40 years and know better than any other people the pain and tragedy that lives on in the heart of each Crimean Tatar because their blood links with their native land have been broken off.

At first the problem of perestroyka fitted quite well into the everyday formula-radical economic reform with deep and all-round democratization of social life. Now, at last, we have "revealed" the problem of nationalities or, to be more correct, the problem of inter-national relations.

Thus, it has become part and parcel of perestroyka. It must be tackled throughly in all areas—in theory and in practice. Either overt or covert struggle between the old and the new, between the supporters of perestroyka and its opponents has been going on almost continually around the nationalities problem. It must be kept in mind that the enemies of perestroyka could be the first to reveal the new aspect of this problem. They always try to use such events in their conservative interests, to discredit the very idea of perestroyka.

Many people believe that inter-national problems have become aggravated, suddenly, by the process of democratization in our society. Dark, conservative forces already reproach the forces of renewal with having "loosened the screws", painstakingly recording in their "roll of wisdom" all that is brought to the surface by glasnost and which, in their opinion, "undermines the system." This is a lie based on the calculation that the lack of information will work in its favour. But those who are well-informed know that the Crimean Tatars came out ever more persistently some 20-25 years ago when the first, postwar generation of settlers was born and shaped spiritually in Central Asia. They also staged demonstrations with their own leaders, among whom there were also extremists. But at that time intimidation and reprisals were used against them. The repressed emotions developed into a disease, although it was obvious even at that time that "sore" points could not be avoided, nor their solution repeatedly postponed. The legitimate demands of the Crimean Tatars would have to be taken into account.

The fact that a commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet has been set up to study this issue, instils hope that a solution may be found which becomes a standard for all similar cases.

Passions which accumulate under the surface, and which are hidden, have greater explosive force than those which now and then splash out into the streets. The situation is complicated and dramatic but it must not be made into a tragedy. What is needed in this natural process of purification and normalization is self-control and not the whipping up of terror and "witch-hunting."

Those who have brought our multinational country to the verge of crisis and who are now juggling with the facts, are trying to put it off-course and are actually depriving us of our romantic but pure and honest faith in change. The return to the Stalinist methods of settling disputes between various nationalities would be a real tragedy for our multilingual country.

Safety lies in forward movement—step by step, and only forward! This is one of the theories of the ideology of renewal about which Mikhail Gorbachev spoke at the February Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee.

Each nation, big or small, has common sense, a sense of self-preservation, and combines in its consciousness a vision of the world, common to each nationality and to mankind as a whole. All these help each recognize the sacred rights of the other to an adequate existence and prosperity, be it its neighbour or a nationality on another continent. In our thousand-year history we Central Asians have repeatedly become convinced of this. If only the ideological institutions would not lag behind events and create a situation where any manifestation of national consciousness brings accusations of extremism, heavy restrictions and threats of legal punishment, just like before. No doubt, the law must be applied to those who break it, but those seeking ways to genuine though not ostenatious internationalism, have the right to be listened to.

I can understand that the whole task of explaining events is difficult, since all statistics in various spheres of life are kept secret. For example, we don't know how national income is distributed among republics, nor what concrete contribution each republic makes to the USSR total. Hence, all the arguments about who feeds and clothes whom, put forward at the latest writers' plenary meeting, which seemed unethical, to put it mildly. Don't these disputes sometimes make you look and feel silly? Asked what he knows about Uzbeks your average Muscovite replies cheerfully: "They are the people who stand in the markets next to Georgians, selling their products at exorbitant prices." Well, ignorance or, to be more precise, misinformation can boomerang. Maybe this is why you sometimes read in our novels about the stereotyped image of "big brother", the Russian—no flesh, no spirit, uttering truisms about friendship between peoples. Understanding one another is complex and paradoxical. We still think in terms of the categories or Karamzin who revealed with affection the pedantry of the English.

Until we try to find out who is who in Central Asia, and not only there, new areas of inter-national friction may form. Take, for example, the problem of the Kara-Kalpaks who have become the victim of a major ecological disaster of our century. Because of the dying Aral Sea they will have to be resettled in other districts of the country. Because of the endless and frequently futile scientific disputes, because of the arrogance or simply the bureaucratic stupidity of various departments we risk missing the coming Day of Judgement for Kara-Kalpaks and other peoples of the region. One day, resettled Kara-Kalpaks will wake up with the question on their dried lips: "What has happened to us? Where is our homeland, our history, language and culture?"

Sociologists have calculated that, according to the present tendencies of maturing national self-consciousness, national problems tend to manifest themselves most acutely five years after their question is initially raised before the public. Usually, it is the writers, most sensitive to linguistic and cultural movements among their people, who first raise such issues. Then all intellectuals become involved, whose ideas and thoughts spread among the masses. Two years ago writers were the first to raise their voice about the coming ecological catastrophe for the peoples of the Aral region. Five years ago Grant Matevosyan told me with bitterness that because of the efforts of local bureaucrats books by modern Armenian writers do not even reach the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabak, who have been artificially torn away from the mother tongue. That is when the problem started to mature....

Nearly two years ago, at an all-union writers' conference in Samarkand, Central Asian writers reproached one another with having deliberately distorted the history of the neighbouring people, their national character. It is high time our local ideologists got to the heart of the problem and tried somehow to prevent the future international frictions mentioned by Tajik poet Loik Sherali at the writers' planary meeting. But propagandists pretend that there are no problems, and continue to propose toasts in honour of the inviolable friendship of peoples. Maybe they are waiting for "instructions from Moscow" to understand the causes of tension in relations between various nationalities. These causes have their roots in the period of the personality cult when, instead of thoughtful and painstaking work in the sphere of inter-national relations, one campaign of "struggle against bourgeois nationalism" replaced another, just as fierce, in the name of "fighting cosmopolitanism".

In the 1960s, when attempts were made to revise the borders of our republics (in 1954 the Crimea was transferred from the Russian Federation to the Ukraine), some districts of Kazakhstan were handed over to Uzbekistan for purely economic purposes—to enable cotton to "seize" the traditional cattle-breeding lands. Then other problems—economic and ecological—emerged. While this single crop could not swallow its new pie, livestock-breeding fell into decay. Finally, these lands were quietly returned to Kazakhstan, but without fanfares and friendship meetings. This reaffirmed that revising established borders between republics does not solve the problem. Tension must be removed in some other way.

The economy is the most sluggish sphere of our everyday life and it will take years to restructure those aspects of it which influence inter-republic relations. It is easier and quicker to remove frictions between various nationalities through perestroyka in the cultural sphere. But the cultural problems inherited from the "Stalin's nationalities policy" have been aggravated. In the southern districts of Kazakhstan this is the case because inadequate attention is paid to the development of the language and literature of the Uzbek population living there. In Bukhara, where instruction was traditionally conducted in Uzbek and Tajik, there is now not a single Tajik school. In the districts of Tashkent, where the Uzbek population predominates, there are not enough Uzbek schools. The "Turkmen districts" of Uzbekistan have no theatre in their mother tongue.... And I have only outlined a few of the vast number of problems. Who can solve them if not the local leaders?

Sometimes their slowness and incompetence are striking, or their ostentatious vigorous activity, behind which lies the same incompetence. R. Abdullayeva who, until recently, worked as Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, was such a "boisterous functionary." Everything traditional in the way of life, everything which, together with contemporaneity, creates full-blooded life, everything that belonged to the people—from ancient festivals to ritual funerals—she declared reactionary, leading the man in the street to speak about "the hand of Moscow." Indeed, it is not Moscow that interprets Uzbek-Russian bilingualism as giving priority to Russian, but rather our home-bred "fighters of ethnicity" who strive to appear progressive. This is like the man from the well-known parable who runs ahead of the cart and, cheering up the carter, proclaims toasts in his honour, while reproaching the people run over by the cart with lack of patriotism.

Members Leave 'Helsinki-86' Latvian Group

LD150004 Moscow TASS in English 2253 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Riga April 14 TASS—Diana Grulle-Drulle, a resident of Liyepaya, Latvia, has declared that she on her own ceased her term of probation for membership of the "Helsinki-86" group which declares it defends human rights, and which appeared in that Baltic republic two years ago. Such a decision was also taken by James Sturitis, a Baptist-Pentecostalist from Liyepaya. Their statements were published by a Liyepaya newspaper.

"The Helsinki-86" leaders are not interested in Latvia's progress, they pursue their own ambitions and seek to pose as leaders", TASS correspondents have been told by 50-year-old Diana, a railway train conductor. Her desire to join the group was motivated by the striving to promote solution of acute problems of Latvia's economic development, ecological problems.

"But the coordination centre, which took power into its hands, so far does nothing in this direction. But a huge effort was exerted to raise hullabaloo around it," said Drulle-Grulle. The leaders of the group do not heed the opinion of the rank-and-file members and I understood that they needed not my activities but the very fact my joining the group. I become convinced that one can bring more good to the people of Latvia, cooperating with the Latvian fund of culture. She noted with satisfaction that in the recent time the leaders of the republic started paying more attention to problems she is concerned about. But she believes that these problems should be given a more serious and pointed coverage in the press.

Diana Grulle-Drulle is daughter of an officer of bourgeois Latvia's Army. In the 1940s, along with her mother and brother, she was sent away to Siberia. Seemingly, that motivated her decision to join the human rights' group which announced that it was supporting all people who had suffered in the "Stalinism era."

But she became convinced that the group "lacked prospects and activities of the coordination centre were erroneous." "Decisions are taken on behalf of the group, of which the members of the group know nothing," she writes in her Helsinki-86 quitting application. "I do not agree to my name used in documents of which I have not been informed." She discovered her name, for instance, under the appeal calling for a manifestation be held on March 25 outside the Monument of Freedom, as a counter to the proposal of intellectuals of the republic to pay tribute to the memory of innocent victims of repressions of the cult of Stalin's personality outside the Mother-Latvia sculpture at the Common Grave Cemetery.

James Sturitis had similar motives for quitting the group. In his statement he writes that he did not want "to be a puppet" in the hands of the irresponsible persons who turned "the coordination centre into something like 'Fuehrer's general headquarters' where autocratic decisions are taken".

Fatal Roof Collapse at Nizhniy Tagil Plant

PM141159 Moscow
SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian
12 Apr 88 p 2

[Own correspondent V. Semenov "On the Spot Report": "Insidious Dust and the Log Entry"]

[Excerpts] Nizhniy Tagil—They were working on the second shift that day. As usual, the fire was roaring in the open-hearth furnaces, hot-metal cranes were floating about the shop, and flatcars moved to and fro. But from the moment the people entered the bay, the life of every one of them was hanging by a thread. Three of them didn't return home.

The tragedy happened at 1910 hours. V. Bushin, a 28-year-old steel worker, died, and steelworker V. Pupyshev and foreman P. Smirnov were taken to the hospital with burns. Pupyshev was in a critical condition. The number of casualties could have been greater. Many were saved by the fact that only one of the four furnaces was working at the time of the accident.

When I arrived at the metallurgical combine, the first convertor shop looked as if a bomb had hit it. There was an enormous gaping hole in the roof. The open-hearth furnaces were submerged beneath metal structures, shattered brick, and debris.

But what at first glance seemed incredible had actually happened—the roof had caved in. Some 3,000 square metres of roofing weighing 2,000 tonnes had broken away in a flash and, bringing the roof of the casting bay with it, had descended in an avalanche on the furnace section.

So what was the cause of the tragedy?

Beneath the roof of the open-hearth furnace shop, there are some windows, or air vents, through which fresh air can enter. But an enormous quantity of metal dust escapes from the shop by these same vents and settles on the roof. Experience shows that it will form a layer up to 10 centimeters thick in the space of a year. As it accumulates, this dust compacts into a multilayered iron mass which can only be broken up with a pneumatic drill. The roof should be cleaned regularly, at least twice a year, so that the load does not become too great. According to shop chief L. Suslov, the dust had not been cleared for many years from the section of roof which collapsed.

"During this time it built up to a thickness 10 times above the legal norm," T. Imashov, chief engineer of the Sverdlovsk branch of the "Proektstalkonstruktsiya" Central Scientific Research Institute explained. "It was so overloaded that the tragedy could have happened at any moment." [passage omitted]

The roof collapsed on 29 March. According to the conclusion reached by the commission of experts, "the accident was inevitable, given the buildup of industrial sediment on the roof of the open-hearth furnace shop."

Dozens of specialized organizations and powerful equipment have been brought in to eliminate the consequences of the accident and construction materials are being sought. The staff is in session twice a day. Bonuses ranging between R500-2,000 are being offered for those who successfully meet the targets. Work is in progress around the clock.

The first of the four furnaces put out of action was started up again on the sixth day. On the same day L. Radyukevich, chairman of the commission set up to investigate the causes of the accident, informed the workers on the results of the commission's work. V. Ilin, assistant chief of the shop responsible for technology, and also L. Suslov and Yu. Pakhomov have been released from their duties. The relevant documents have been sent to investigative organs in order to bring criminal charges against those responsible for the accident.

From the Editor [subhead]

This is not the first time our newspaper has raised this issue. Last year, an article by L. Pertseva entitled "The Roof of Damocles" discussed similar accidents at major Chelyabinsk enterprises—metallurgical and electrometallurgical combines. The USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy responded to the criticism with a formal reply. Now there has been another disaster—this time in Nizhniy Tagil. What will the ministry leaders have to say this time?

Yevtushenko Bemoans Neglect of Small Towns

PM131527 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA
in Russian 6 Apr 88 p 13

[Yevgeniy Yevtushenko "Response": "'Winter' of Our Discontent"]

[Text] The 30 March issue of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA carried a feature by Yu. Rost, who painted a picture that was not just unattractive but actually rather frightening of the goings-on at Zima [Winter] Junction, in the environs of the hydrolytic "monster" belching poisonous "suchok" or methanol-based vodka from its maw. Unlike the author, I have spent not one "nightmare night" at Zima Junction—my own, small hometown where my roots lie—but many nights of my childhood, standing in lines on the homefront waiting for bread, with a number written in indelible pencil on the palm of my hand.

It was there that I saw those ill-starred weddings, when the bridegroom had to leave for the front to save Moscow right from the celebrations. And it was there that I saw old Siberians giving up their most treasured possessions—their wedding rings—to help the fund for those at the front. Our little Zima Junction hospitably opened its arms to thousands of evacuees and hundreds of people seriously wounded. Yu. Rost saw inveterate drunkards at Zima Junction, people who seemed no longer human, but in my own memory I see many dear blood relatives and people with whom I have a vital, spiritual bond....

I must admit that as a whole Rost's article was not only scathing but powerfully written and largely justified in its pain and anger. True, the article is tinged with shades of the revelatory "expose" which—alas!—is now typical of journalists who regard themselves as the sole champions of glasnost. However, Rost cast a stone in my direction in passing: "Celebrated by the poet, Zima Junction has engendered clear, clean, snowy images in our imagination." Yes, I have celebrated the beauty of nature and the spiritual beauty of the people from my hometown. But this is what I wrote in the poem "Zima Junction" back in 1955, when I wanted to warn people about the beginnings of the danger which Rost has only seen today:

"An exceptional affront to the eye:

"A fence with unpleasant scrawl,

"A drunk by the cafe in a sprawl,

"A line at the store, a brawl."

And so on and so forth.

Following this poem, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA published a collective letter from old Bolsheviks accusing me of defamation. Siberian newspapers published organized selections of "opinions of working people" who condemned me for supposedly "spitting in the faces of my fellow countrymen." Professional journalists should bear this in mind.

But let us leave these personal affronts and get back to the main issue. The article raises a problem that is important not only to Zima Junction but also to a great many other so-called "provincial" towns—other people's small birthplaces, without which there could be no Motherland with a capital "M."

We must bitterly admit to ourselves that they have been criminally forgotten by us. We deprive them of their proper share of culture, food, clothing, and the most elementary everyday attention, just as children who have gone out into the "big world" pay scant attention to the mothers they have left behind. We must admit with bitter courage that the fight against alcoholism initiated with such noble aims in mind has not been as effective as we would have liked. What do we see? The manufacture of home-distilled vodka and home-brewed beer made from goodness knows what, the theft of industrial alcohol from plants and laboratories, the consumption of eau de cologne, lotions, corn treatment solutions, and so forth. We have drug addiction in many of its ugliest forms. This is what is now poisoning many of our citizens. It has become clear that in many areas a battle is being fought against state vodka but certainly not against alcoholism. Attempts to make some cities sobriety zones have led to very sad results.

What is more, we have unintentionally placed a number of respectable people in the position of being wrongly suspected of alcoholism. Why should a gray-haired couple celebrating their silver or gold wedding anniversary have to stand humiliatingly in the same line as people on their last legs, just to be able to buy a couple of bottles of champagne? When I saw hundreds of people with somber faces standing in line for a bottle to celebrate the New Year on New Year's Eve, I lowered my eyes in shame and could not understand why these people should be condemned to have the forthcoming celebrations spoiled for them by having to stand in that line.

At one time, Siberia was able to feed itself—with bread, meat, and milk. According to prerevolutionary sources, the famous Irkutsk cheese was dispatched in large consignments to Japan and China. But now, whenever I am going to visit home, I scrape and grovel in Moscow's stores so that they give me more than the prescribed 500 grams of cheese for my relatives.

So much energy goes into the daily grind necessary to feed your family that sometimes, out of exhaustion, your hand reaches out, willingly or no, for the illicit "suchok."

I have no wish to try to justify those who drink themselves into oblivion and become less than human. But this should not be a cause for gloating delight—it should be our common pain, our common guilt. Was it the people of Zima Junction who asked the state to give them a hydrolytic plant? Was it the people of Zima Junction who took away their own land, the land which gave them food? Was it they who struck such cruel blows to Siberian agriculture with all manner of restrictions and impossible taxes? Was it they who destroyed their native industries? Was it they who flooded their villages and cemeteries for the sake of gigantic building projects which were never justified?

In this, we are all to blame. I hope that the article by Yu. Rost will be the beginning of a major, serious discussion on the fate of our many small hometowns because without restructuring them, there can be no restructuring of the Motherland.

Paper Defends Stand in Historical Polemics

PM131320 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 88 p 2

[Unattributed "Rejoinder": "Why We Are Not Afraid of Missing the Boat"]

[Text] In the newspaper IZVESTIYA for 9 April of this year in an article entitled "Why Did It Happen?," Yu. Feofanov, returning to the subject of the rehabilitation of N. Bukharin and other unjustly repressed Communists, addressed to LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, in our view entirely without justification, an accusation of attempting, "before the ink has dried on the acquittal verdict, to slander them again, as LITERATURNAYA GAZETA evidently did for fear of missing the boat." We suppose the author is referring to Yu. Maksimov's article "Retouching the Tragedy?" (6 April 1988).

In this connection we consider it necessary to point out that long before the official political and juridical rehabilitation of N. Bukharin our newspaper published an analysis of his position in the disputes about the future of socialism. We refer to F. Burlatskiy's article "Political Testament" (22 July 1987), which puts the main emphasis in the right places in evaluating the debates of the time on the subject of the main avenues of socialist building. And through that article the editorial office once again emphasized its desire consistently to uphold the principles of historical justice.

It is also worth recalling another item that was, in our opinion, no less significant—A. Vaksberg's article "Queen of Evidence" (LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, 27 January 1988), in which, much earlier than Yu. Feofanov's article, the sinister role played by A. Vyshinskiy in the tragic trials of the thirties, including the sentence on N. Bukharin, was demonstrated.

In printing such principled items, in our view, the editorial office proceeded on the basis of the urgent public demand for an all-around knowledge of historical realities and open and complete analysis of the contradictions of the political struggle and events from the lives of specific historical individuals.

Another significant point should also be noted. Yu. Feofanov's article suggests the idea: Have we perhaps forgotten how to conduct polemics, or rather lost the ability to understand each other? In fact, we call ardently for pluralism of opinions—and then ourselves snub those who try to express their own viewpoint and give their own assessment of a particular aspect of our life. The author of the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA article, as we understand it, only wanted to draw attention to the fact that not everything in N. Bukharin's theoretical legacy can be accepted unreservedly. The tone of this item, its style, is another matter. Here it is possible to argue with the author, without, of course, identifying his position with that of the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA editorial office.

The polemics now taking place in the press confirms that there is an urgent need for profound, thorough analysis of the ideological struggles of that time, of the theoretical legacy of the post-October period, including, naturally, N. Bukharin's works. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA intends to continue the work it has begun in this direction, and therefore is not "afriad of missing the boat."

P.S. A very strange impression is produced by IZVESTIYA's second (11 April) reference to the same article. Yu. Maksimov, polemicizing with the one-sidedly positive depiction of V. Larin, cites V.I. Lenin's remarks about him, in which he is described partly in negative terms. In IZVESTIYA, however, A. Latsis reports, on the contrary, that apart from critical comments, there were positive ones too. Well, that's polemics for you....

Editor Describes New Foreign Affairs Journal

PM140953 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "EKHO PLANETY—First Issue"]

[Text] The discussion of questions connected with ratifying the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles in the USSR Supreme Soviet and the U.S. Senate, thoughts on the results of the visit to Yugoslavia by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, preparations for the Soviet-U.S. summit in Moscow, a talk on the circumstances surrounding the death of one of the "Cultural Revolution's" initiators in China, acquaintance with innovations by leading French model makers and inventions by transport engineers who have thrown down the challenge to the very idea of the wheel—the first issue of the EKHO PLANETY journal offers readers articles on these and many other subjects. Published by TASS and the USSR Journalists Union, this sociopolitical illustrated weekly is aimed at the widest readership.

IZVESTIYA correspondent S. Mushkaterov asked N.K. Setunskiy, chief editor of EKHO PLANETY, to talk about the new journal and its particular features:

[Setunskiy] Our weekly throws light on international topics. The journal's "trademark" is the fact that the large corps of TASS correspondents assigned to 125 countries, including states where not only are there no other Soviet journalists but there are no Soviet diplomatic representatives either, is participating in preparing articles for it. All this provides the opportunity to publish topical articles from the scene of events, from the world's troublespots, and to talk about the remotest corners of the earth. And of course, this makes it possible to show the life of countries and peoples and to familiarize readers with foreign political and state figures and prominent representatives of world science, culture, and art through the prism of the correspondent's personal perception, with his vision of events and with his own assessments, even if these do not necessarily reflect the official viewpoint with which the TASS signature is associated. We are publishing a large number of black-and-white and color photographs both in the first and in future issues of EKHO PLANETY.

Contents of New Issue of KOMMUNIST Published

PM151041 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 88 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Latest Issue of Journal"]

[Text] The sixth issue of KOMMUNIST, which has now been published, prints for the first time V.I. Lenin's letter of 28 October (10 November) 1909 to I.P. Goldenberg, member of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party Central Committee [RSDRP]. It contains Lenin's advice to the Bolsheviks in Russia on how best to bring the Bolsheviks closer to the Menshevik party members in the struggle against the liquidationists and for the conservation and consolidation of the RSDRP.

Democratization is an all-embracing process which pervades social structures, uniting them with the threads of qualitatively new ties and relations. It is important to view it as an integral process equal in scale to, for instance, the scientific and technical or cultural revolution. That is what A. Degtyarev, secretary of the Leningrad CPSU Obkom, writes in his article "First Foundation of Party Life" which opens the rubric "Toward the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference." Also published here is an article by V. Nakoryakov entitled "Who Is Master at the Plant" and the publication continues of items from the correspondence "round table" entitled "The Democratization of the Party is the Democratization of Society."

V. Bogachev's article "Economic Development—Arithmetic and Content" is devoted to important problems of economic strategy. It is published in the section "Acceleration and Restructuring: Theory and Practice."

Printed in the "Pages of History" section are an article by A. Kostin and V. Shelokhayev entitled "First RSDRP Congress: Overcoming the Inertia of Antihistoricism," a dialogue between historican V. Loginov and economist O. Mikhaylov under the heading "Realism of Lenin's Political Art," and pages from French socialist Jacques Sadoul's notes on V.I. Lenin and the party of Bolsheviks.

A. Vishnevkiy's article "Has the Ice Begun to Break?" describes complex demographic trends.

The following articles are published un the rubric "In the Socialist Countries: Experience, Achievements, Problems": an article by Gustav Husak, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and president of the CSSR, entitled "Loyalty to Revolutionary Behests" and an article by Yu. Shiryayev, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, entitled "CEMA Countries: New Concept of Cooperation."

Briefs

TV Broadcast to Nagorno-Karabakh

A television program has been broadcast for the first time from the Soviet Caucasus Republic of Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh, situated on the territory of another Caucasus republic, Azerbaijan. Direct television broadcasts are one of the provisions of the program aimed at promoting social, economic and cultural development of Nagorno-Karabakh where the majority of residents are Armenians. It is also planned to accelerate the rate of housing construction, to improve conditions of work, upgrade services, and expand cultural contacts with Armenia. [Text] [*LD162327 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Apr 88*]

Economic

CPSU Passes Construction Resources Resolution

PM180931 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 88 Second Edition p1

[Unattributed report: "In the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has adopted a resolution "On Providing Capital Construction With Material Resources in 1987-1988."

The resolution notes that capital construction still does not fully guarantee the solution of the growing tasks of developing the economy and implementing the strong social policy evolved by the 27th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. While there has been a substantial increase in the commissioning of housing, schools, children's preschool institutions, and public health and culture projects, labor collectives' efforts to increase the construction of housing and social and consumer projects using the funds they themselves have earned are not being realized and working people's personal savings are being put to insufficient use for these purposes.

In 1987 a number of regions in the country lacked sufficient metal, cement, timber, linoleum, sanitary engineering equipment, and other materials for their construction programs, as a result of which many apartment blocks and social projects were not commissioned, although the housing construction plan was met as a whole.

One of the factors holding back capital construction is serious lagging in the development of the production of many types of construction and timber materials, rolled metal, and other resources. Despite all the seriousness of this problem, the USSR Gosplan, USSR Gossnab, USSR Gosstroy, ministries and departments, union republics' Councils of Ministers, and local party, soviet, and economic organs are failing to devote proper attention to strengthening construction's material and technical base.

Construction ministries and the USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry are failing to ensure the satisfactory construction of new enterprises and the modernization and retooling of existing production units, and the funds allocated for these purposes are regularly unused. Many enterprises are making poor use of their capacities and are failing to improve the quality of the materials and goods they manufacture. The materials-intensiveness of construction work is being reduced only slowly and work to save resources is badly organized.

The production of construction materials in the Ukrainian, Uzbek, Kazakh, Georgian, Moldavian, Latvian, and Tajik union republics is not keeping pace with the growth rate of construction and assembly work. The same is true of Astrakhan, Volgograd, Gorkiy, Lipetsk, and Kemerovo Oblasts, the Chuvash and Tatar ASSRs, and a number of other RSFSR territories. While complaining to the CPSU Central Committee and the government about the imbalance between capital construction plans and the material and technical resources allocated, ministries and departments and local party, soviet, and economic organs show a parasitical attitude and do little to increase the output of construction materials to fully meet the needs of construction and trade for the population.

The CPSU Central Committee has demanded that the tasks of accelerating the development of capital construction's material and technical base and increasing the output of construction materials take priority in the activity of all central and local organs.

Leaders of the USSR Gosplan, USSR Gosstroy, permanent organs of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR ministries and departments, and the union republics' Councils of Ministers are instructed to take effective measures to overcome lagging in the production of construction materials, manufactured goods, and structures primarily by creating the capacity for producing progressive types of these items which will considerably increase the industrial nature of construction work, make it less materials-intensive, and improve its quality and durability. They are instructed to ensure unconditional fulfillment of party and government decisions on these matters.

The resolution draws the attention of the USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, and the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building to their failure to meet targets for the output of manufacturing equipment, sanitary engineering equipment, and linoleum and proposes that they make up the shortfall in the first half of 1988.

The USSR Gosplan, USSR Gosstroy, USSR Council of Ministers Machine Building Bureau, and USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building are instructed to take measures to substantially increase the output of manufacturing equipment and apparatus to develop capital construction's material and technical base and supply installations starting up in 1988 with equipment.

The attitude of the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Northern and Western Regions of the USSR, the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Urals and West Siberia Regions of the USSR, the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Southern Regions of the USSR, the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Far East and Transbaykal Regions, the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work, and the construction ministries of the Ukrainian, Uzbek, Kazakh, Azerbaijan, and Moldavian union republics to developing their own production base and building and commissioning enterprises to produce materials, goods, and structures is considered intolerable. The CPSU Central Committee has demanded that the ministers responsible personally take the necessary measures to ensure unconditional fulfillment of plans and targets at every construction site and at every enterprise.

The resolution indicates that the most important task of the USSR Gosstroy and ministries and departments responsible for capital construction is to ensure unconditional implementation of the resource-saving program for 1988 and the development of the relevant work to review and radically improve project decisions and make construction less materials-intensive. It recommends that all labor collectives be mobilized for this most important state task and the system for providing them with material and moral incentives be improved on the basis of rapidly introducing internal economic accountability and a check-based account system.

The USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry and Comrade Minister S.F. Voyenushkin personally are obliged to take urgent measures to rectify the present situation with regard to supplying capital construction with materials and satisfying the needs of the national economy and the population for high-quality goods. It is recommended that labor collectives of enterprises and organizations focus their efforts on making full use of their potential and organizing the output of progressive structures and finishing materials while making extensive use of secondary resources.

The Councils of Ministers of the union and autonomous republics, krayispolkoms, and oblispolkoms are instructed to draw up and implement programs for the construction, expansion, modernization, and full use of existing enterprises in the construction and construction materials industry to make regions as self-sufficient as possible regarding construction materials and manufactured goods by bringing local raw materials into play. They are also instructed to take measures to strengthen and improve the use of the production base of republic and territorial construction organizations.

The CPSU Central Committee has instructed the central committees of the union republic communist parties and party kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms to increase their monitoring of the fulfillment of plans for the output of construction materials and goods and the implementation of party and government resolutions to further develop capital construction's material and technical base. It has recommended that local supply organs work accurately and efficiently and that construction sites and enterprises implement a strict policy of thrift.

Social Stratification Called 'Normal Phenomenon'

LD161513 Moscow TASS in English 1437 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—The sharpening of competition among enterprises is the indispensable condition of success of the economic reform that has been started in the USSR, holds Dr. Mikhail Voyeykov, who heads one of the sectors of the Institute of Economy of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In a conversation with journalists he noted that enterprises should emulate not over the achievement of some abstract indexes sent down from above, the way it was before. They should compete for an order. And it should be placed with those of them that provide the most attractive terms from the viewpoint of the needs of society as regards deadline, quality, price.

Mikhail Voyeykov is of the opinion that the optimum share of the state order placed with producers of the most important kinds of products should make up some 50 per cent in the branches of the processing industry, while the remaining part of the order should be determined by free agreements with consumers. The state order might comprise practically the entire volume of production in the branches of the extractive industry, specifically in the branches producing fuel and energy.

The orders should be placed by the USSR State Planning Committee representing state interests, and not by ministries, the way it is done now. At first the committee establishes the orders at the level of 70-75 per cent (such a high percentage is needed at the initial stages of the introduction of this form of planning), while the order placed by ministries accounts for another 25 per cent.

Self-financing and self-government is the basis of the economic reform. The principle of economically substantiated electiveness should operate from the lower section, a team, to the very top. If specialists are needed (ranging from an engineer to director) they are hired by a collective. A ministry should be in the upkeep of enterprises. Instead of engaging in petty control and tutelage, it should collect information, issue recommendations for the introduction of new technology, assist enterprises in the supply and marketing of products, concentrate reserve assets, in a word implement a single technological and economic policy of the branch.

Mikhail Voyeykov is of the opinion that self-financing and competition will inevitably lead to social stratification of society. But this is a normal economic phemenon, as all the earnings will result from honest work. The public consumption funds will be developing at the same time to ensure the minimum level of social well-being.

Economist Views Price Formation Options

PM150951 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Apr 88 p 2

[Article by Doctor of Economic Sciences Yu. Borozdin under the "Economist's Notes" rubric: "Commodities, Incomes, Prices"; boldface as published—first paragraph is TRUD introduction]

[Text] Our newspaper has already spoken frequently on price formation. It has published an article by V. Pavlov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Prices, and then a review of comments. The letters are continuing to arrive in the editorial office. Today an economist considers this problem which perturbs everyone.

Over the decades a kind of model has been constructed in our country in accordance with which the improvement of the living standard under socialism is achieved by the simultaneous action of three factors—the constant buildup of the production of consumer goods, the growth of the population's money incomes, and the reduction of retail prices. The proposition that with a stable retail prices level the raising of nominal incomes means an exactly similar increase in real incomes became universally acknowledged and enshrined in official statistics.

It might have been possible to agree with this, but on one condition only—the existence **of a balanced, that is, a shortage-free consumer goods market.** If far from everyone is able to freely buy, for instance, meat and oil, at state prices, then the living standard is no longer determined by the size of nominal incomes. Moreover, the level of real consumption depends on access to goods in short supply sold at low state prices.

To understand what is happening it is probably necessary to turn to history. To this day you can hear people, especially people of the older generation, say that even under the very grave conditions of the national economy's postwar restoration prices for goods in mass demand declined. That is indeed so. This reduction at a certain time was a highly effective measure able to generate the population's enthusiasm. But let's turn to the economic and sociopolitical situation of that time. At the very end of 1947 a money reform was carried out in the country, the ration card system was repealed, and new state retail prices, on average 300 percent higher than in 1940, were introduced, which was supposed to normalize commodity turnover and balance supply and demand. The subsequent annual price reductions in 1949-1954 reduced the retail price index by approximately 57 percent compared with 1947—their level was still greatly in excess of prewar prices.

It should be considered that in this period there was a sharp disproportion between the purchasing power of the city and the countryside. The majority of the country's population lived in the countryside and money incomes here from work in the public economy were essentially only symbolic. Transferring to money payment and interesting rural workers in work was possible only by raising purchase prices for agricultural output. From 1953 these prices began to rise quite intensively. By the early sixties for the first time in our practice the level of purchase prices for livestock output was higher than the level of retail prices, which required substantial subsidies from the state.

From the mid-fifties, in connection with the course toward improving the population's living standard, there was an increase in money incomes while retail prices for basic food and nonfood goods remained stable. But here there was no solution to another problem—**the shortage of consumer goods was not overcome.** That devalued the ruble and "swallowed up" a substantial proportion of the increase in nominal money incomes, caused lines for goods and speculation, deformed moral bastions, and promoted the flourishing of the "shadow" economy and the dealers active in it. Corruption, embezzlements, protectionism, and the undermining of the moral and economic principles of socialism, including the socialist principle of distribution according to labor, were linked to a considerable extent with this. Shortage long ago became not only an economic phenomenon but also the sociopolitical and moral scourge of our society.

But how to eradicate shortage so that no one loses anything except of course for those who "warm their hands" on it—that is the task for whose solution we must **take a new look at questions of price formation, including the stability of prices.**

At first glance there is a painless solution. Many people point it out immediately: It is essential to sharply increase the supply of goods and services while keeping retail prices unchanged.

In principle this is indeed the primary and best way. The question is how much time it will take. After all, the effectiveness of our agricultural production and light and food industry remains low and it would be unrealistic to hope for a powerful surge here within 2-3 years. In addition expenditure on production is so great that with the existing level of retail prices many types of agricultural products incur a loss to the state and any additional increase in their output automatically increases the size of these losses.

How can these losses be made good? Only **by means of the profit obtained in selling industrial consumer goods.** There is no other source. But how does this profit take shape and can it be substantially increased? There is one path here—developing the production of goods which ensure that the budget receives the so-called turnover tax present in the prices for automobiles, refrigerators, clothing, footwear, tobacco items, and others. But the level of prices for these is relatively high even now. Yet the size of state subsidies for food is growing rapidly—from R4 billion in 1966 to R60 billion in 1987. If these trends continue, in 5-6 years we may reach zero efficiency for the economy.

But perhaps we will succeed in rectifying the situation if we reduce purchase prices and thus reduce the size of subsidies for food? Unfortunately, here too the situation is not reassuring. Moreover, even with present purchase prices every sixth agricultural enterprise runs at a loss and the reduction of the level of purchase prices means a reduction in the remuneration of labor in agriculture. There is scarcely anyone who will deem that expedient.

The second path for overcoming shortage is to limit consumer demand, which can be achieved only as a result of freezing money incomes. I think this principle for resolving the problem is impossible in its "pure" form because it will undermine material incentives to increase labor productivity.

The third path which could bring us close to a state of balance is **an overall reform of retail prices**, the raising of prices for food commodities while leaving prices for industrial goods unchanged. To bring our production's present potential really into line with effective demand such a reform should not be compensated by a corresponding increase in the population's money incomes. That is understandable: If, as some economists suggest, we increase retail prices by, for instance, R60 billion, and hand out these R60 billion in the form of differentiated income supplements, consumer demand will not decrease.

But the lack of compensation when raising retail prices, even if we succeed in reducing the food shortage, will lead to a certain decline in the living standard of many groups of the population and will undoubtedly give rise to adverse sociopolitical consequences. That is why this path is in principle ruled out. We see the way out **in an interlinked reform of retail, purchase, and wholesale prices** whereby money compensation for groups of the population on low and average incomes will be envisaged. Here **the living standard and degree of consumption should not decline** while for individual strata they may even increase. How to achieve this in practice? Let's look at one option.

Let's suppose that the overall size of the increase in prices for food for a standard "shopping basket," that is a month's selection of basic foods per capita, is R30. That means the compensation per family of four in which two people are working (where each has an income of under R150) should be R120 a month. That will entirely compensate for the increase in prices for foodstuffs. For high income groups the compensation supplement could be set at half this level—R15 a month per person—and then the increase in prices for foodstuffs will not substantially affect their consumption.

We should also fundamentally **alter the actual mechanism of price formation.** The state should concentrate in its hands the control of the movement of prices only for key foods. For instance, prices for milk, meat, oil, bread, fruit, and vegetables should be set centrally and be under unremitting control, because it is on these that the living standard primarily depends. The remaining prices can be formed directly in agreements between producers and consumers or through a trade intermediary. It is important **that production itself should react flexibly to the change in prices.** The emergence of a shortage and the corresponding rise in price should be an incentive to increasing the production of this item and the profit obtained from the increase in prices should be wholly channeled into expanding its output.

These measures will make it possible to normalize the economy. It must be taken into account that of itself a market balanced against the population's money incomes, the lack of shortage, the opportunity to acquire everything you need and even everything you want with the rubles you have earned is also a considerable incentive to labor. After all only highly productive work will make it possible to constantly increase the supply of varied, good-quality goods and services and to reduce the cost of producing them, which will later make it possible to reduce prices. The necessary foundation is now being laid for resolving this problem and there are already promising results. In the past 3 years the pace of labor productivity growth has exceeded the average annual indicators for the 11th 5-Year Plan. It is extremely important that the new economic mechanism should constantly gather momentum. This is a guarantee of our successful development, whose aim is man and his welfare.

Agricultural

Media Report 10-13 Apr Agricultural Developments

LD170332 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, from 10 to 13 April. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

10 April

A new maize hybrid, Oktyabrskiy-70, has been developed in Kirghizia. It yields up to 160 quintals per hectare and has higher protein content than all strains currently under cultivation. The plant's stalk and stem can be used as fodder. Around 100,000 hectares will be sown to the new hybrid in the republic next year. (0000)

11 April

To improve the ecological situation in Moldavia, there will be a 40-percent reduction this year in the application of herbicides and other chemicals. All sowing machines are now fitted with devices for ensuring accurate doses of such substances. Herbicides will no longer be sprayed on the soil, but will be applied beneath the surface. (0400)

Perennial grasses are being sown in the southern rayons of Rostav Oblast. Early grain crops are being sown in Yegorlykskiy Rayon. (Moscow Television Service in Russian 1130)

Cereal crops are to be sown to an area of about 500,000 hectares in Krasnodar Kray. This is about one-fourth of the sown area. (1300)

12 April

Although the cold weather has put a stop to sowing in the non-Chernozem Zone of Latvia, Belorussia, and the RSFSR, in the Bryansk Oblast potato planting has started. Currently , there is wide-scale crop sowing in the Ukraine and Moldavia. In the Northern Caucasus the sowing of early cereals and pulse crops is being completed. In the Kuban the sowing of sugar beets and peas has finished. Although the Kuban could easily satisfy the country's needs for peas, peas are imported because Soviet processing facilities were formally unable to cope with the crop. Now the Krymskiy agro-industrial combine has been set up to produce tens of millions more cans of peas per year for the country. The combine is located in the Krymskiy Rayon of Krasnodar Kray, which has the largest area sown to peas in the whole country. (1100)

Stavropol farmers began sowing maize today. (1100)

Sowing of early grain crops was completed today in Zaporozhye Oblast. Only top-class seeds have been sowed over the whole area. (1300)

13 April

The State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan has calculated that by today almost 200,000 hectares of land have been sown with cotton—almost 10 percent of the sown area. In Surkhan-Karya Oblast 5,000 hectares of crop-rotation plantations formerly sown to cotton have for the first time been sown to alfalfa. (1330)

Scientific

Activities of 'Mir' Cosmonauts Outlined

Tasks for 16 Apr

LD152342 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] The call sign of the subbotnik will also be heard in near-earth orbit. Today [16 April] Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov will be engaged in cleaning the accommodation in their space home and summing up the results of another working week. Included in today's program are six working sessions. With the help of the telescopes of the Roentgen orbital observatory, research will be carried out into the source of the Cepheus Constellation. During evening television sessions, the cosmonauts will meet their nearest and dearest, who will come to the Mission Control Center.

According to reports from space, the flight is proceeding normally and the cosmonauts are healthy and feel well.

To Rest 17 Apr

LD171103 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0204 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] The Mission Control Center reports that today the crew of the Mir manned complex, Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov, will rest. In accordance with the international program of astrophysical research, though, several series of experiments are planned, involving the use of the Roentgen orbital observatory. An X-ray source in the Cepheus Constellation has been selected for observation. The cosmonauts feel fine.

Cosmonaut Delegation Arrives in Syrian Capital

LD151720 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1135 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus, 15 Apr (TASS)—The Syrian capital today gave a ceremonious welcome to a delegation of Soviet cosmonauts. At the invitation of Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, G.S. Titov, A.A. Leonov, Yu.V. Romanenko, A.A. Aleksandrov, and A.I. Laveykin arrived here. They will sum up the results of Soviet-Syrian cooperation in the sphere of space exploration and map out the course of work under the "Yevfrat" space program.

The dear guests were welcomed by Syrian Pilot-Cosmonauts Muhammad Faris and Munir Habib, the supreme military command, and many of the capital's residents.

Yakovlev Attends Science Day Soiree in Moscow

LD160252 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A solemn soiree has been devoted to Day of Soviet Science, which will be marked on Sunday, 17 April. It took place today in the Hall of Columns of the House of Unions in Moscow. Comrade Yakovlev, leaders of the USSR Academy of Sciences, ministries, and departments, as well as representatives of the capital's public and prominent scientists, were among the presidium.

Academician Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, gave a report. He spoke about how to increase the contribution of science to restructuring and to direct it toward further developing industry, agriculture, and health care. The deepening of fundamental research work, the strengthening of ties between higher educational establishments and academic institutions, the perfection of the organization of scientific activity, and the increase of its efficiency are the tasks that face scientists today.

Test Flights of Aircraft With New Fuel Noted

LD161930 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—The world's first aircraft capable of using cryogenic fuel took off on April 15. Test flights of the experimental TU-155 plane were started. Liquid hydrogen and liquefied natural gas [LNG] serve as fuel for the aircraft.

The aircraft created by the staff of the experimental design office named after Andrey Tupolev jointly with the research institute of the aircraft industry has the engine NK-88 made by the design office supervised by Academician Nikolay Kuznetsov. A large number of enterprises and research institutes of a number of ministries took an active part in creating the aircraft's systems.

The plane was piloted by a crew headed by merited test-pilot of the USSR V. Sevankayev. A new page has thus been turned in the history of the aircraft industry in the USSR and the whole world.

Hydrogen can be obtained and liquefied in any point of the globe. Only water and energy are needed. This is the best of fuels as regards ecology.

The replacement of oil-based motor fuel by the fuel based on natural gas will substantially expand the possibilities of passenger aviation in the USSR and will decrease the harmful effect of aircraft on the atmosphere.

Intensive work is now under way to design aircraft using cryogenic fuel. But not a single country has such aircraft so far. This work was started in the Soviet Union with creating an experimental plane.

The use of experimental planes for solving the most important problems of the aircraft industry has been a long standing tradition of the design office named after Andrey Tupolev. An experimental ANT-2 aircraft which set the beginning to the construction of metallic aircraft, was built back in 1925. ANT-25 aircraft had the purpose of resolving the problems of enhancing the range of the flights. Experimental planes were also built for the use of turbojet engines and swept wing.

The TU-154 aircraft that well acquitted itself has been chosen as the basis for the new experimental aircraft. A special compartment for a tank with liquid hydrogen has been set up in the tail part of its salon.

Research work has been carried out. More than 30 new on-board systems ensuring the operation of a cryogenic power plant and fire and explosion safety have been designed and manufactured. All the main units and systems have been tested on special stands on the ground. The use of cryogenic fuel has necessitated the development and application of technological processes that are absolutely new for the aircraft industry, above all vacuum-tight welding, and new materials.

A unique ground complex for fuelling and ground maintenance of the aircraft has been created. The development of safety measures in the use of liquid hydrogen required much effort.

The experimental TU-155 aircraft will undoubtedly evoke much interest of the participants in the seventh world conference on hydrogen energetics "Hydrogen Today" to be held in Moscow next September. The aircraft will shortly be flight-tested with the use of liquefied natural gas. The designing of passenger aircraft using cryogentic fuel has been started.

X X X

To the notice of subscribers to the TASS news service: PHOTOKHRONIKA TASS has photographs to this item.

Briefs

Seagoing Hydrofoil Tested

The new Soviet hydrofoil, called "Tsiklon," has been successfully tested on the Black Sea. This is the first such hydrofoil capable of crossing the sea. [Text] [*LD172331 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 16 Apr 88*]

New Antarctic Station Opened

The Soviet state flag has been raised over the new "Progress" Antarctic station, which is the eighth Soviet station there. It is an all-year station and lies in a region which is very interesting for science on the shore of Olav Prydz Bay in the Commonwealth Sea. It is significantly distant from all the other Soviet stations. It will be a center for geological and geophysical research, and it is planned to turn it into a large Antarctic airport, too. Sixteen people are there for the first Antarctic winter, with all that they need. [Summary] [*LD172340 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Apr 88*]

Military

Yazov Order for Air Defense Forces' Day

PM121319 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Apr 88 First Edition p 1

["USSR Defense Minister's Order of the Day No 128" dated 10 April 1988, Moscow]

[Text] Comrade soldiers, sailors, sergeants, and petty officers!

Comrade warrant officers and ensigns!

Comrade officers, generals, and admirals!

Comrade workers, technicians, engineers, and designers in the defense industry!

Comrade veterans of the Air Defense Forces!

Today our motherland and its armed forces are celebrating Air Defense Forces' Day, the holiday of the forces whose development is inseparably linked with the heroic 70-year-long path traveled by the Soviet Army and Navy.

The Air Defense Forces have glorious combat traditions. They have added many vivid pages to the heroic annals of the USSR Armed Forces. Created by Lenin's party, the Air Defense units and formations selflessly defended the gains of Great October during the years of the civil and the Great Fatherland wars. Today, too, in single combat formation with the servicemen of the other branches of the USSR Armed Forces, the personnel of the Air Defense Forces are reliably guarding the fatherland's peaceful skies and are filled with determination to carry out their patriotic and international duty.

The Communist Party and the Soviet Government, bearing in mind the continuing military danger presented by imperialism and the defensive nature of the Soviet military doctrine, attach special importance to the reliable defense of the motherland's airspace. Restructuring is under way in the Air Defense Forces, persistent work is being carried out to enhance combat readiness and the vigilant execution of standby alert duty, discipline is being strengthened, the training of servicemen is being improved, and responsibility for reliably ensuring the Soviet people's peaceful labor is being increased.

I greet and congratulate you on your holiday, Air Defense Forces' Day!

I wish the personnel of the Air Defense Forces new successes in the implementation of the historic decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, in combat and political training, in strengthening military discipline, and in greeting the 19th All-Union Party Conference in a worthy fashion.

To the workers in the defense industry I wish new achievements in the creation and development of arms and combat hardware for the Air Defense Forces and raising labor productivity, output quality, and production efficiency.

To mark USSR Air Defense Forces' Day I ORDER [capitalization as published]:

That a festive firework display be held today, 10 April 1988, at 2200 hours local time, in the hero-city of Moscow, the capital of our motherland, in the capitals of the union republics, and in the hero-cities of Leningrad, Volgograd, Odessa, Sevastopol, Novorossiysk, Kerch, Tula, Smolensk, Murmansk, and the hero-fortress of Brest.

Long live our great motherland—the USSR!

Long live the heroic USSR Armed Forces!

Glory to the Leninst CPSU—the experiences vanguard of the Soviet people!

Army General D. Yazov, USSR defense minister.

Aktiv, Military District on Predraft Training

PM131324 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel N. Mulyar report: "Without Stereotyping or Formalism: Young People Must Be Prepared for Army Service"]

[Text] This was discussed at a joint meeting of the party aktiv of Georgia and the Transcaucasus Military District. In the report, which was delivered by Colonel General K. Kochetov, commander of the district, and in the speeches concern was expressed at the insignificant progress in the military-patriotic education of the republic's young people and their all-around preparation for military service. Coordinated efforts by party and soviet organs and the district command and a whole series of recent measures such as, for instance, extended sessions of the military council, a rally of soldiers' mothers, a republican conference of reserve servicemen who have fulfilled their international duty in Afghanistan, and meetings between servicemen and Georgia's creative intelligentsia have certainly helped improve work with draftees. But many very important problems have yet to be resolved.

The republic has an integral program comprehensively covering questions of military-patriotic education and the physical training of the young generation. But there is a great tendency to short-term campaigns and formalism in this work. The dependent attitudes of some young people cause concern. Certain draftees have only a poor knowledge of Russian, which complicates their army service. In many rayons the material facilities for initial military training is improving only slowly.

Too little attention is also devoted to work on vocational and technical guidance for young people. Working for show, in the desire to report good figures, rather than real work, also does irreparable damage here. Last year in Ambrolaurskiy, Tianetskiy, Tsalkskiy, Ordzhonikidzevskiy, and other rayons work on selecting candidates for military schools did not take place at all.

The republic has many rayons where military-patriotic work is traditionally of a good standard. But this experience is disseminated only slowly, because party and Komsomol organs and military commissariats prefer to be bystanders. For instance, the question of building complexes and towers for parachute training, firing ranges, motor vehicle and motor cycle tracks, and initial military training complexes is raised year after year, but progress is slow. Not every school has a combat and labor glory room or gallery yet. Draftee days and courage rallies are not held everywhere.

The restructuring of work with young people requires the mobilization of efforts of all departments and organizations and all communists and Komsomol members in the republic. If it is carried out comprehensively, without formalism, the meeting stressed, then success is ensured.

Taking part in the party aktiv meeting was D. Patiashvili, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, who spoke at the meeting.